MILITARY
Soldier on death row will ask court to overturn conviction
Page 2

FACES
Lambert happy to see more LGBTQ artists find success
Page 17



MLB
Astros, Nationals relying on rotations in World Series
Back page

Ex-official: US military presence in northern Australia will grow » Page 4

STARS AND STRIPES

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas



In this frame grab from video, residents throw potatoes at U.S. military vehicles as they leave the town of Qamishli, northern Syria, on Monday.
ANHA/AP

NO SMALL POTATOES

Angered by withdrawal, residents throw food at US troops departing Syria **Page 7**

RELATED: US considers keeping small force in northeastern Syria **Page 7**

Hikes coming worldwide to Air Force lodging rates; some in Europe doubling

By Jennifer H. Svan
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The nightly rates for rooms at the Air Force's European inns will more than double starting next month as the services begin to foot the bill for most of their operating expenses.

The cheapest rooms at some lodging units on Air Force bases in Europe will be $149 per night beginning Nov. 1, up from $70, regardless of whether travel is for official duty or leisure, information provided by officials in Germany shows.

The higher rates mean military units will have to budget more for temporary duty and permanent change-of-station moves. The new rates also could mean that more personnel might look for cheaper lodging options off base.

Military members are required to stay on base if their temporary duty assignments are to U.S. installations, and are encouraged, but not required, to do so if their assignments are to locations near military installations.

In the Spangdahlem and Ramstein areas, most off-base lodging runs well under 100 euros, or about $110, according to listings on the travel reservation site booking.com.

As of next month, the cheapest accommodation offered at Spangdahlem's on-base Eifel Arms will be $149 per night, compared with $70 prior to the changes, the Air Force's deputy assistant secretary for cost and economics, Pamela Schwenke, said in a memorandum issued last week. The cost of overnighting in a business suite for officers ranked O-6 and above will nearly triple, from $79 per night to just less than $200, the memorandum shows.

Ramstein and bases in the United Kingdom will see a rate identical to Spangdahlem's. The new rates vary by location and are within per diem levels for all room types at all locations, the memorandum says.

SEE LODGING ON PAGE 5

MILITARY

Soldier on death row to ask court to overturn conviction

By Nancy Montgomery
Stars and Stripes

A master sergeant sentenced by a civilian court to death for three murders, acquitted in an appeal and then sent back to death row decades later for the same crimes by a military court will argue Tuesday that he should be a free man again.

Lawyers for Timothy Hennis will argue in a hearing at the nation's highest military court that Hennis shouldn't have been court-martialed for the murders in the first place.

"The legality of this case strains at every seam: in its jurisdiction, in its merits and procedure, in the fairness of its panel and in the conduct of the government," defense lawyers wrote in a brief to the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

Hennis' lawyers argue that constitutional double jeopardy prohibitions should have precluded him from being tried again after his acquittal. A Supreme Court decision in June ruled that state and federal courts, which include military courts, can try the same crimes. However, the defense maintains that the Army was acting as a front for the state court.

They will also argue that the Army lacked jurisdiction to court-martial Hennis in part because he was retired and he'd had a break in service, and that Hennis should have been provided more defense resources.

As a sergeant stationed at Fort Bragg, Hennis was convicted in a Cumberland County, N.C., courtroom in 1986 for the murders of Kathryn Eastburn, the wife of an Air Force captain who was away on temporary duty, and her 3- and 5-year-old daughters, Kara and Erin.

All had been stabbed to death and Kathryn had been raped. A third daughter was found alive in her crib several days later by police.

Three years after the conviction, the North Carolina Supreme Court awarded Hennis a retrial, ruling that gruesome crime scene photos may have unduly influenced the jury in 1986.

At the retrial, the defense discredited prosecution witnesses, introduced new witnesses and raised doubt over physical evidence, including shoe imprints and a speck of blood on a towel that matched neither the Eastburns' nor Hennis'.

He was acquitted, freed and went back to the Army, deploying to Saudi Arabia and Somalia before retiring in 2004.

In 2005, two sperm samples taken from Katie Eastburn's body were sent for DNA testing, which had become far more sophisticated and precise in the nearly two decades since the crime was committed. The DNA profile belonged to Hennis.

Because double jeopardy provisions prohibited North Carolina from prosecuting Hennis again, the Army stepped in, recalling Hennis to duty and court-martialing him on murder charges. The statute of limitations had run out on the rape charge.

He was convicted of the murders and sentenced to death in 2010 by a Fort Bragg court-martial panel.

There are few, if any, other cases in which someone is sent to death row, then acquitted, then sent to death row again, said Robert Dunham, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center.

But more than a dozen military death sentences in the past three decades have been overturned on appeal and changed to life in prison, he added. Hennis is one of just four men remaining on the military's death row.

"Statistically, the most likely outcome of a military death sentence once it's imposed is it will be overturned," Dunham said.

montgomery.nancy@stripes.com
Twitter: @montgomerynance



Stephanie Bruce, The Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer/AP

Master Sgt. Timothy Hennis and his wife, Angela, walk to the Fort Bragg, N.C., courthouse for his murder trial in 2010. Hennis is asking the military's highest court to overturn his conviction.

Agencies search for missing West Point cadet, rifle

By Deanna Paul
The Washington Post

The U.S. Military Academy reported a cadet and an M4 rifle missing Saturday morning after a multiagency search didn't find either.

"The cadet is not believed to have any magazines or ammunition," the academy said in a statement released Monday, and law enforcement officials don't think he poses a threat to the public.

"But he may be a danger to himself."

The teenager, a member of the class of 2021 whom the academy has not named, was said to have been last seen on campus about 5:30 p.m. Friday. Classmates began looking for him after he missed a military skills competition scheduled over the weekend, officials said.

Military, federal, state and local agencies have made extensive search efforts, including aerial sweeps, and have contacted hospitals.

"We will continue to search with all means possible, on and off U.S. Military Academy," said Lt. Gen. Darryl A. Williams, the 60th superintendent at the U.S. Military Academy.

For now, the academy said, it will operate with "an increased force protection status."

"Safely locating the cadet remains our focus and number one priority," Williams said.

TODAY IN STRIPES

American Roundup 16
Business 15
Classified 19, 22
Comics/Crossword 13
Faces 17
Opinion 20-21
Shifting Gears 18
Sports 23-32
Weather 15

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PACIFIC





PHOTOS BY THERON GODBOLD/Stars and Stripes

Left: Famous cosplayer and Yokota-Con guest Yaya Han poses in front of a work by painter Hidekichi Shigemoto during the convention at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Saturday. Right: A member of the 501st Legion, a volunteer organization that seeks to promote interest in "Star Wars" by building and wearing quality costumes, poses during the event.

Inaugural Yokota-Con held at US base in Japan





Above: Actors Olivia Hack, who played Cindy Brady in "The Brady Bunch Movie," and Dan Payne, best known for his role in the horror film "The Cabin in the Woods," answer questions. Right: A child looks at a replica of R2-D2 from "Stars Wars."



A Japanese artist works in the Yokota-Con artist alley.

BY THERON GODBOLD
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — More than 1,000 anime, science-fiction and fantasy enthusiasts flooded the Taiyo Community Center over the weekend for the first Yokota-Con on this U.S. Air Force base in western Tokyo.

Yokota-Con — a takeoff on the annual comic book convention Comic-Con International — was held Saturday afternoon and provided patrons with a number of booths and activities from live music to gaming. Entrance was free, but only for service members, their families and guests and civilian ID holders.

Actor Dan Payne, best known for his role in the 2011 horror film "The Cabin in the Woods"; actress Olivia Hack, who played Cindy Brady in 1995's "The Brady Bunch Movie"; and famed cosplayer Yaya Han were among those on scene for autographs. They later sat on panels answering questions about their careers and future projects.

There were also meet-and-greets scheduled with "Pokemon" and "Yu-Gi-Oh!" voice actor Rica Matsumoto and "Resident Evil" actor Dante Carver.

"I think this was well done for a first effort, and they had more than I expected," Chief Petty Officer Elizabeth Enockson said at the event. "It's amazing that the military is starting to meet the geekdom need for these types of events."

Yokota-Con ended with a children's cosplay parade and a competition for adult cosplayers. The winners took home prizes like a Nintendo Switch video game console, a new sewing machine, camera equipment and tickets to the Tokyo Comic Con in November.

godbold.theron@stripes.com
Twitter: @GodboldTheron

MILITARY

Military surge in Australia to grow, ex-official says

By Seth Robson
Stars and Stripes

The military buildup in Australia's Northern Territory, which included a record number of U.S. Marines rotating there this past summer, will continue as a response to growing Chinese capabilities, according to a former Australian defense official.

To support U.S. Air Force and Marine activities in the Northern Territory, Australia and the United States will invest about $2 billion on aircraft maintenance, support facilities, fuel storage and upgrades to accommodations, training areas and ranges, the Australian Defence Force said in a statement Monday announcing the departure of the summer's rotation of 2,500 Marines from Darwin, Australia.

'It won't only be the Marines. It wouldn't surprise me if the (U.S.) Army said they could send a couple of battalions (on a training rotation).'
Ross Babbage
former Australian assistant defense secretary

The deployment of such a large Marine contingent is an important milestone, former Australian Assistant Defense Secretary Ross Babbage said by phone Monday.

President Barack Obama announced plans to rotate a 2,500-strong Marine Air-Ground Task Force to Darwin back in 2011, but it took eight years for the force to reach that level.

The U.S. military buildup in Australia will continue in response to growing Chinese capabilities, Babbage predicted.

Defense experts have kept an eye on Chinese maritime claims in the South China Sea, development of long-range missiles and a growing fleet of Chinese aircraft carriers.

China launched its first carrier — a former Soviet Kuznetsov-class vessel called the Liaoning — in 2012. The South China Morning Post reported Thursday that China's first homegrown aircraft carrier, the Type 001A, appeared to have set off on its eighth sea trial, with experts predicting it will be commissioned within months.

"It looks like they are gearing up to have a new carrier every second year off the production line," Babbage said.

Beijing's recent efforts to gain a military foothold in the South Pacific have alarmed the Australian government, which has been engaged in diplomacy to dissuade its smaller island neighbors from hosting Chinese forces.

Chinese interest in Manus Island, off the coast of Papua New Guinea, prompted Australia to negotiate a deal to upgrade a navy base there earlier this year.

A report in the newspaper The Australian on Friday suggests the Solomon Islands has agreed to lease an entire island with a deep-water port to a Chinese company.

The buildup in Australia's Northern Territory will likely involve enhanced air and maritime facilities, Babbage said.

"It won't only be the Marines," he said. "It wouldn't surprise me if the (U.S.) Army said they could send a couple of battalions (on a training rotation). Australia's answer would be, 'Of course you can come.'"

robson.seth@stripes.com
Twitter: @SethRobson1



Seth Robson/Stars and Stripes

Marines participating in the rotational force to Darwin take part in the Talisman Sabre drill in Bowen, Australia, in July.

Yokota hangar used by Japan during WWII being razed

By Seth Robson
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — An 80-year-old building that once housed secret Japanese aircraft during World War II is coming down at the home of U.S. Forces Japan and the 5th Air Force in western Tokyo.

A maintenance and fabrication facility will go up on the site on Yokota's flight line, Air Force officials said.

Demolition of the hangar began last month following a ceremony that involved a Shinto priest praying for the safe completion of the project, 374th Engineer Squadron environmental engineer Yoshitaka Yamaguchi said in a video released by the Air Force on Oct. 10.

Known as Building 800, the hangar was constructed by the Japanese Imperial Army in the 1930s, when Yokota was known as Tama Army Airfield, Yamaguchi said.

"The Imperial Army used it for maintenance, training and secret aircraft testing and evaluation during World War II," he said.

During a tour of the hangar Oct. 10, demolition workers pointed out the names of merchants printed in kanji — Chinese characters used in Japan's writing system — on exposed wooden frames. The workers said they also uncovered an Imperial Army-era painting of Mount Fuji behind one wall; however, it was destroyed when that part of the building was demolished.

A colorful volcanic boulder in a garden near the building that was gifted by Emperor Hirohito in April 1944 is still in place.

Among the planes maintained in the hangar was a Kawasaki Ki-61 Hien single-engine fighter, one of the types used in kamikaze attacks at the end of the war.

That aircraft, which was displayed at Yokota until 1953, can be viewed at Gifu-Kakamigahara Air and Space Museum in Gifu city, Yamaguchi said.

'Bldg. 800 and other subordinate buildings will be replaced with a new ... complex.'
Kaori Matsukasa
Yokota Air Base spokeswoman

The hangar was used during Operation Tomodachi, the U.S. relief effort after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, Yokota spokeswoman Kaori Matsukasa said in an Oct. 4 email.

"Bldg. 800 and other subordinate buildings will be replaced with a new 'Consolidated Maintenance/Fabrication Complex,'" she said.

The decision to demolish the hangar was made due to its poor condition and a request by U.S. forces to build a new facility, according to a North Kanto Defense Bureau spokesman.

The nearly $60 million construction project, funded by the Japanese government, will begin sometime around 2021 and is expected to end around 2025, the spokesman said.

Several other Imperial Army-era hangars are still standing at Yokota, Matsukasa said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.
robson.seth@stripes.com
Twitter: @SethRobson1



U.S. Air Force

Building 800 at Yokota Air Base, Japan, constructed by the Japanese Imperial Army in the 1930s when Yokota was known as Tama Army Airfield, is being demolished and replaced with a new facility.





Photos by Theron Godbold/Stars and Stripes

Left: A volcanic boulder from Mount Fuji is displayed in the distinguished visitors' garden at Yokota. The rock was presented by Emperor Hirohito during a visit in April 1944. Right: The historic hangar was once used by Japan's Imperial Army for "maintenance, training and secret aircraft testing and evaluation," according to an Air Force video.

MILITARY

Marine Corps sees less misconduct by its drill instructors

By Andrew Dyer
The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — The Marines say changes in the way they train recruits and their notoriously hard-nosed drill instructors have led to fewer incidents of drill instructor misconduct, officials told the Union-Tribune.

Their statement about training followed an Oct. 5 Washington Post report revealing that more than 20 Marines at the San Diego boot camp have been disciplined for misconduct since 2017, including cases of physical attacks and racist and homophobic slurs.

According to The Washington Post, the Marines punished one drill instructor who in the fall of 2017 used a staple gun on a recruit and ordered another recruit to eat part of a pine cone. That drill instructor received administrative punishment and left the Marines in September 2018.

The incident was one of several at the two Marine Corps boot camps in recent years, including a case in which a Marine recruit fell to his death after being struck by a drill instructor at Parris Island, S.C.

Every year, almost 18,000 young Marines graduate from Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. MCRD San Diego is all male; female Marine recruits are trained at Parris Island.

Marine Capt. Martin Harris, an MCRD San Diego spokesman, said that from August 2018 through September 2019, there was a 64 percent decrease in substantiated allegations of drill instructor misconduct. While Harris did not go into detail about those cases, most were minor and did not warrant significant punishment, he said.

Harris estimated that the number of cases over those 13 months were between 20 and 40.

The Marines invited the Union-Tribune to visit the San Diego depot's chief of staff, Col. Daniel Kazmier, to talk about training recruits and drill instructors.

Kazmier enlisted in the Marines in 1980 as an avionics technician and did two tours as a drill instructor before being commissioned as an infantry officer in 1992. He went to law school in 1997 and served as a Judge Advocate General, a military attorney.

In 2017, Kazmier assumed command of MCRD San Diego and, in June, took his current job as chief of staff. He was the commanding officer when the misconduct detailed in the Post's story occurred.

According to Kazmier, in 2017 the Marines strengthened their reporting requirements for hazing. That led to a corresponding spike in reports, he said.

Those requirements and other changes, such as a new "four-phase model" for recruit training, have led to fewer punishable incidents, he said.

"The good news is that, overall … the number of incidents that were serious enough to merit punishment of any kind have been drastically reduced," he said.



Caleb Jones/AP

Rob Kraft, director of undersea operations at Vulcan Inc., reviews sonar scans of a warship from the World War II Battle of Midway that was found by the crew of the research vessel Petrel on Sunday off Midway Atoll in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The crew confirmed it was the flagship Japanese aircraft carrier Akagi.

Researchers find a second Japanese warship sunk in the Battle of Midway

By Caleb Jones
Associated Press

MIDWAY ATOLL, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands — A crew of deep-sea explorers and historians looking for lost World War II warships have found a second Japanese aircraft carrier that went down in the historic Battle of Midway.

Vulcan Inc. Director of Undersea Operations Rob Kraft and Naval History and Heritage Command historian Frank Thompson reviewed high-frequency sonar images of the warship Sunday and say that its dimensions and location mean it has to be the carrier Akagi. It was found in the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument resting in nearly 18,000 feet of water more than 1,300 miles northwest of Pearl Harbor.

The researchers used an autonomous underwater vehicle, or AUV, equipped with sonar to find the ship. The vehicle had been out overnight collecting data, and the image of a warship appeared in the first set of readings Sunday morning. The first scan used low-resolution sonar, so the crew sent their AUV back to get higher-quality images.

"I'm sure of what we're seeing here. The dimensions that we're able to derive from this image (are) conclusive," Kraft said. "It can be none other than Akagi."

The vessel is sitting among a pile of debris, and the ground around the warship is clearly disturbed by the impact of it hitting the seafloor.

"She's sitting upright on her keel. We can see the bow; we can see the stern clearly. You can see some of the gun emplacements on there. You can see that some of the flight deck is also torn up and missing, so you can actually look right into where the flight deck would be," said Kraft.

The find comes on the heels of the discovery of another Japanese carrier, the Kaga, last week.

Lodging: Pentagon is shifting funds to higher priority programs

FROM FRONT PAGE

The rate changes were calculated to ensure facilities could fund operations while maintaining standards, the Pentagon said.

At the Army base lodge in Wiesbaden, the cheapest room has gone up from $55 to $70 a night, a front desk clerk said by phone Monday. Other rooms at the lodge went up by $10 to $15 starting on Oct. 1.

"Customers are upset. They are really complaining about the $15 increase," said the clerk, who declined to give his name since he wasn't authorized to give an interview. The increase was the result of the lodge no longer being supported with base funds, he said.

The increases come as service branches scramble to cover costs without taxpayer dollars, which became unavailable at the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1.

The rate increases are part of a Pentagon plan announced last year to make military business operations more efficient and shift funds to higher priority programs.

The Navy began raising its lodging rates a year ago. In the Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia regions, rates increased $11 to $31 per night, depending on room type, a Navy statement said.

Resorts operated for Morale, Welfare and Recreation, such as Garmisch's Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Germany, are excluded from the new policy. Lodging at Fisher House, which allows military and veteran families to stay for free when a family member is in the hospital, is also excluded.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
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WAR/MILITARY

Defense chief gets firsthand look at war in Afghanistan

By Lolita C. Baldor
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Mark Esper sought a firsthand assessment Sunday of the U.S. military's future role in America's longest war as he made his initial visit to Afghanistan as Pentagon chief. Stalled peace talks with the Taliban and unrelenting attacks by the insurgent group and Islamic State militants have complicated the Trump administration's pledge to withdraw more than 5,000 American troops.

Esper told reporters traveling with him that he believes the U.S. can reduce its force in Afghanistan to 8,600 without hurting the counterterrorism fight against al-Qaida and ISIS. But he said any withdrawal would happen as part of a peace agreement with the Taliban.

The U.S. has about 14,000 American troops in Afghanistan as part of the American-led coalition. U.S. forces are training and advising Afghan forces and conducting counterterrorism operations against extremists. President Donald Trump had ordered a troop withdrawal in conjunction with the peace talks that would have left about 8,600 American forces in the country.

U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad had a preliminary peace deal with the Taliban, but a surge in Taliban violence and the death of an American soldier last month prompted Trump to cancel a secret Camp David meeting at which the peace deal would have been finalized. He declared the tentative agreement dead.

"The aim is to still get a peace agreement at some point; that's the best way forward," said Esper. He visited Afghanistan in his previous job as U.S. Army secretary.

He would not say how long he believes it may be before a new peace accord could be achieved.

A month after the peace agreement collapsed, Khalilzad met with Taliban in early October in Islamabad, Pakistan, but it was not clear what progress, if any, was being made.

Esper's arrival in Kabul came as Afghan government leaders delayed the planned announcement of preliminary results of last month's presidential election. Esper met with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and other government officials.

Esper also planned to meet with his top commanders in Afghanistan as the U.S. works to determine the way ahead in the 18-year war.



Lolita C. Baldor/AP

Defense Secretary Mark Esper descends from his plane in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sunday. Esper was in Afghanistan to a get a firsthand assessment of the U.S.' future role in Afghanistan.

Pelosi meets with top Afghan officials

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan President Ashraf Ghani met with U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and a group of American lawmakers in an unannounced visit to the country.

The Afghan government's statement says that Ghani on Sunday thanked the delegation for the U.S.' continued financial and political support for Afghanistan over the past 18 years.

The delegation met with Ghani and Chief Executive Abdallah Abdallah.

Pelosi on her twitter account said her visit to Afghanistan focused on security, governance and economic development.

Her office said in a statement Sunday night the bipartisan delegation met with top Afghan leaders, civil society representatives and U.S. military chiefs and troops serving there.

Pelosi said the delegation emphasized the importance of combating corruption and ensuring women are at the table in reconciliation talks.

Pelosi and the delegation stopped in Afghanistan after a visit to Jordan.

Pelosi said that while Afghan women have made progress in some areas, more must be done to ensure their security as well as economic and educational opportunities for women and girls there.

She praised the courage of U.S. troops and diplomats on the front lines.

The delegation had visited key U.S. ally Jordan the day before.

Former VA chief warns of agency's subversive culture in memoir

By Nikki Wentling
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Toxic. Chaotic. Subversive.

That's how former Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin describes the culture at the agency in his new memoir, "It Shouldn't Be This Hard to Serve Your Country," which is to be released Tuesday.

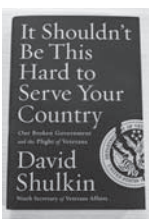
In the tell-all book about his time as secretary, Shulkin blames a group of political rivals for plotting his demise and warns of "grave danger" ahead for veterans' health care.

"If we don't figure out a way to stop them, they are fully capable of destroying the VA," Shulkin wrote of the rivals.

In the more than 350 pages of the book, Shulkin details his relationship with the "Mar-a-Lago trio," three members of President Donald Trump's club in West Palm Beach who exerted influence over the VA. He also gives his account of a European trip that became a national scandal during his tenure, and he hits back at rivals, including a group that he refers to as "politicals" who worked to undermine him.

Trump selected Shulkin in January 2017 as his choice to lead the VA. Previously, he had worked as undersecretary of health at the agency under former President Barack Obama.

But 14 months after naming Shulkin as his nominee for secretary, Trump fired him by tweet.



Former Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin's memoir will be released Tuesday.

Since being dismissed, Shulkin has spoken out about a power struggle inside the agency and an effort by political operatives to privatize the VA. The book expands on those tensions.

"There seems to be an unwritten rule in Washington: when your time comes, go quietly," Shulkin wrote in the book. "That wasn't going to work for me, mostly because this fight was not just about me but also about the veterans I served."

Shulkin uses the book to criticize the VA Inspector General's Office; Concerned Veterans for America; Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan.; the news media; and the political operatives who worked on Trump's presidential campaign and later gained positions at the VA — Darin Selnick, Brooks Tucker, John Ullyot, Peter Shelby, Peter O'Rourke, Jake Leinenkugel and Camilo Sandoval.

Shulkin accuses the group of appointees of targeting his closest staff members, leaking documents, planting stories and using revelations of his questionable spending in Europe as "ammunition" to take him down.

"Not only did these people know absolutely nothing about health care or Veterans Affairs, but they had no interest in learning or in making the place better," Shulkin wrote. "Apparently, all that mattered to them was their political agenda, which did not include having the VA succeed."

When discussing his relationship with the three Mar-a-Lago members who had a hand in the agency's operations, Shulkin focused on Marvel Entertainment Chairman Ike Perlmutter.

At Perlmutter's request, Shulkin flew to West Palm Beach to meet with him before Trump's inauguration. Shulkin agreed to the trip in an attempt to curry favor and keep his job as undersecretary, he wrote.

When Trump was conducting interviews for the position of VA secretary, he phoned Perlmutter, who praised Shulkin as somebody who "understands what's going on at the VA."

Throughout Shulkin's time as secretary, he took calls from Perlmutter, sometimes several in a day, he wrote. Every time that he met with the president, Trump asked him whether Perlmutter was happy. The White House sometimes scolded Shulkin for not communicating well enough with the Mar-a-Lago trio.

Shulkin viewed Perlmutter, as well as lawyer Marc Sherman and Bruce Moskowitz, a Palm Beach doctor, as "well-intentioned, even if sometimes off base with their advice."

"Often their advice was unusable, because none of these men seemed to have much of an understanding of how the VA worked, nor did they possess any health system management experience," he wrote. "Most concerning was that these VA 'advisers' had never been to a VA facility."

Shulkin ends the memoir with a warning about the current direction of the VA. Most of his concerns were focused on the VA Mission Act, a major expansion of veterans' access to private doctors that went into effect during the summer.

Shulkin predicted the policy, which passed Congress on a bipartisan basis, would lead to the "rapid dismantling of the current VA system."

"I am convinced that the path now chosen, if allowed to continue, will leave veterans with fewer options, a severely weakened VA, and a private health care system not designed to meet the complex requirements of high-need veterans," he wrote. "The result I believe will be a fundamental inability to fulfill our sacred responsibility of caring for the men and women we send into harm's way."

wentling.nikki@stripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

MIDEAST

US convoy pelted with potatoes on path from Syria

By Lefteris Pitarakis and Lolita C. Baldor
Associated Press

AKCAKALE, Turkey — Angry over the U.S. withdrawal, residents of a Kurdish-dominated Syrian city hurled potatoes at departing American military vehicles as they drove by on Monday. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said U.S. troops will stay in eastern Syria to protect Kurdish-held oil fields for at least the coming weeks and he was discussing options to keep them there.

"Like rats, America is running away," one man shouted in Arabic at a convoy of armored vehicles flying American flags passing down an avenue in the northeastern city of Qamishli, according to video by the Kurdish news agency.

The video showed people pelting the vehicles with potatoes and shouting, "No America" and "America liar" in English.

Another man shouted obscenities and talked of babies in Kurdish-held areas who have died in the Turkish offensive. One of the vehicles reversed down the street and over a sidewalk as several people walked after it, shaking their fists in the air and shouting insults.

The scene encapsulated the Kurds' feelings of betrayal and added a new indignity to a U.S. withdrawal that has been rushed and saw several close brushes with Turkish-backed forces.

The Kurds were stunned when President Donald Trump two weeks ago abruptly decided to pull U.S. troops out of border areas, abandoning their allied Kurdish-backed fighters ahead of Turkey's invasion. After the assault began Oct. 9, Trump ordered a general withdrawal from Syria.

At another location, near the town of Tal Tamr, a group of protesters raised banners to departing U.S. troops late Sunday, according to an Associated Press video.

One man blocked the way of a U.S. van with a poster reading, "Thanks for US people, but Trump betrayed us."

The Kurdish-led force was a key U.S. ally in the long and bloody fight that eventually brought down Islamic State's rule over northeastern and eastern Syria. The U.S. troops near the border were seen by the Kurds as insurance that Turkey would not attack.

After being abandoned by U.S. forces, the Kurds agreed to a cease-fire deal brokered by Washington that requires them to leave a swath of territory along the border, handing it over to Turkish control.

As part of the cease-fire deal, Kurdish forces pulled back Sunday from the border town of Ras al-Ayn, paving the way for Turkish troops to be deployed there. Under the deal, the Kurds are to withdraw from a stretch of territory 75 miles along the border and 19 miles deep. Qamishli is east of that area.

A senior Kurdish official, Redur Khalil, said Monday his forces are complying with the agreement and are preparing to complete the withdrawal. He called for an international mechanism to protect Kurdish civilians who want to stay in their towns after Kurdish-led fighters leave.

Most Kurdish civilians have fled Ras al-Ayn, fearing killings or repression by Turkish-backed forces. Any still in the territory that the Kurdish fighters are leaving are likely to do the same.

More than 176,000 people have been driven from their homes in the violence. About 70,000 of those are children, the international aid group Save the Children said Monday.

It said thousands are taking refuge in schools and abandoned buildings without electricity or in open fields in Kurdish-run areas around northeastern Syria. In the town of Hassakeh, where more than 4,000 are living in schools, the water station was knocked out of commission in the violence so residents don't have regular water or sewage services.

"Thousands of children and their families have once again had to leave everything they own to flee conflict and take shelter in unhygienic conditions without the basic necessities," said Sonia Khush, Save the Children's Syria response director.

Khalil said Turkey continues to violate the cease-fire, accusing its troops of shelling a village at dawn and seeking to carry out military operations. He criticized the U.S. as a guarantor of the cease-fire deal, saying it has not forced Turkey to adhere to it.

"The American guarantor remains weak in its position in deterring the Turkish violations," he said.

On Monday, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu accused the Kurdish-led forces of 30 live-fire violations of the 4-day-old truce, including an attack that killed one Turkish soldier. He said Turkey retaliated against those attacks.

Cavusoglu renewed warnings that his country will resume its offensive in northeastern Syria if Kurdish fighters don't vacate the region before the cease-fire is set to end Tuesday evening.

"If they don't withdraw, our operation will restart," Cavusoglu said in Istanbul. He added, however, that Kurdish fighters were complying with the deal and withdrawing.

Turkey says it wants to return Syrian refugees to the evacuated areas.

A meeting Tuesday between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin is expected to further address arrangements along the Syria-Turkey border.



ANHA/AP

Residents angry over the U.S. withdrawal from Syria threw potatoes at American military vehicles in the town of Qamishli, northern Syria, on Monday.

US may now keep some troops in Syria to guard oil fields

By Lolita C. Baldor
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. may leave some forces in Syria to secure oil fields and make sure they don't fall into the hands of a resurgent Islamic State, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Monday, even though President Donald Trump has insisted he is pulling troops out of the country and getting out of "endless wars."

The Pentagon chief said the plan was still in the discussion phase and had not yet been presented to President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly said Islamic State has been defeated.

Esper emphasized that the proposal to leave a small number of troops in eastern Syria was intended to give the president "maneuver room" and wasn't final.

"There has been a discussion about possibly doing it," Esper told a press conference in Afghanistan before heading to Saudi Arabia. "There has been no decision with regard to numbers or anything like that."

The fact that such a plan was under consideration was another sign the administration was still trying to sort out its overall strategy amid fierce criticism from the president's Republican allies of his abrupt decision to pull U.S. forces back — essentially clearing the way for Turkey's military incursion into the border region to push back the American-allied Kurdish forces.

A White House official said GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham raised the issue of keeping U.S. forces in eastern Syria to protect the oil fields and that Trump supported the idea. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal discussions.

Esper said the main goal would be to make sure ISIS doesn't gain control of the oil fields and the revenue they generate.

The defense secretary said American troops around Kobani are withdrawing and that the U.S. is maintaining combat air patrol over U.S. forces in Syria as the withdrawal goes on. He said the U.S. is using overhead surveillance to try to monitor the recently negotiated cease-fire "as best we can."

While Trump has insisted he's bringing home Americans from "endless wars" in the Mideast, Esper said all U.S. troops leaving Syria will go to western Iraq and the American military will continue operations against ISIS. The troops aren't coming home and the U.S. isn't leaving the turbulent Middle East, according to plans outlined by Esper before he arrived in Afghanistan on Sunday.

The fight in Syria against ISIS, once spearheaded by American-allied Syrian Kurds who have been cast aside by Trump, will be undertaken by U.S. forces, possibly from neighboring Iraq.

But Esper said in a tweet Monday that the U.S. would only "temporarily reposition" troops from Syria in the region until they could return home.

Esper did not rule out the idea that U.S. forces would conduct counterterrorism missions from Iraq into Syria. But he told reporters traveling with him those details will be worked out over time.

Trump nonetheless tweeted: "USA soldiers are not in combat or ceasefire zones. We have secured the Oil. Bringing soldiers home!"

The Republican president declared last week that Washington had no stake in defending the Kurdish fighters who died by the thousands as America's partners fighting in Syria against ISIS extremists. Turkey conducted a weeklong offensive into northeastern Syria against the Kurdish fighters before a military pause.

"It's time for us to come home," Trump said, defending his removal of U.S. troops from that part of Syria and praising his decision to send more troops and military equipment to Saudi Arabia to help the kingdom defend against Iran.

Esper's earlier comments to reporters traveling with him were the first to specifically lay out where American troops will go as they shift from Syria and what the counter-ISIS fight could look like. Esper said he has spoken to his Iraqi counterpart about the plan to shift about 1,000 troops from Syria into western Iraq.

Trump's acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, asked about the fact that the troops were not coming home as the president claimed they would, said, "Well, they will eventually." He told "Fox News Sunday" that "the quickest way to get them out of danger was to get them into Iraq."

Trump ordered the bulk of the approximately 1,000 U.S. troops in Syria to withdraw after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made it clear in a phone call that his forces were about to invade Syria to push back Kurdish forces that Turkey considers terrorists.

NATION

Companies reach $260M deal in opioids lawsuit

By Julie Carr Smyth and Geoff Mulvihill
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The nation's three dominant drug distributors and a big drugmaker have reached a $260 million deal to settle a lawsuit related to the opioid crisis just as the first federal trial over the crisis was due to begin Monday.

The settlement means the closely watched trial will not move forward now, but it does not resolve more than 2,600 other lawsuits across the country seeking to hold the drug industry accountable for an opioid crisis that has been linked to more than 400,000 deaths in the U.S. since 2000.

The settlement ends only the suits brought by the Ohio counties of Cuyahoga and Summit.

Hunter Shkolnik, a lawyer for Cuyahoga County, said the agreement calls for the distributors AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson to pay a combined $215 million. Drugmaker Teva would contribute $20 million in cash and $20 million worth of suboxone, a drug used to treat opioid addiction.

"People can't lose sight of the fact that the counties got a very good deal for themselves, but we also set an important national benchmark for the others," Shkolnick said.

Separately, the small distributor Henry Schein also announced Monday that it's settling with Summit County for $1.25 million. The company was not named in Cuyahoga's lawsuit.

After the new settlements and previous ones with five other drugmakers, the only defendant left in the trial that had been scheduled for Monday is the pharmacy chain Walgreens. The new plan is for Walgreens and other pharmacies to go to trial within six months if they don't reach settlements first.

The judge overseeing the federal litigation had long pushed for settlements that would not only provide for damages for the plaintiffs but also change practices as a way to make a dent in the opioid crisis.

Parties say talks on a global settlement will continue.

Industry CEOs and attorneys general from four states met Friday in a daylong session in Cleveland where the offer in place was a deal worth potentially $48 billion in cash and drugs over time to settle cases nationally. The deal was not completed partly because of disagreements between state and local governments over how to allocate the settlement, which would have come from the three big distributors, Teva and Johnson & Johnson.

> **'People can't lose sight of the fact that ... we also set an important national benchmark for the others.'**
> **Hunter Shkolnik**
> Cuyahoga County lawyer

The epidemic has become more complicated in the past decade, with fatal overdose numbers rising largely because of illicit drugs such as heroin and fentanyl.

The settlement efforts until now have been mixed.

Four drugmakers reached deals only with the two Ohio counties — enough to get them out of the first trial but leaving unresolved the claims from communities across the country.

OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma reached a tentative settlement last month that could be worth up to $12 billion over time. But half the states and hundreds of local governments oppose it.



David Grunfeld, The (Baton Rouge, La.) Advocate/AP

Two large cranes at the site of the partially collapsed Hard Rock Hotel come crashing down after being detonated in New Orleans on Sunday.

Blast topples precarious cranes at site of collapsed New Orleans hotel

By Rebecca Santana
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Thundering explosions toppled two cranes Sunday that had loomed precariously for days over a partially collapsed hotel in New Orleans, in what city officials hailed as a success and said efforts now would focus on retrieving two bodies still inside the ruined building.

The fiery afternoon explosions sent up massive clouds of dust and sent one crane crashing to the street while the second fell in a way that left much of it resting atop the hotel where officials said it was "stable" and could be removed piecemeal.

"We know that we are safer now than we have been in the past eight days," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell, speaking at a news conference after the explosions roared through the city's downtown.

It was a little more than a week ago — Oct. 12 — that the Hard Rock Hotel that was under construction near the historic French Quarter partially collapsed. Three workers died that day when several floors of the multistory building pancaked. Only one body has been removed so far.

The cranes — one around 270 feet high, the other about 300 feet — weighed thousands of tons and were badly damaged in the collapse. They had been tilting dangerously, and officials had feared the towers would come down on their own, possibly smashing into nearby buildings or severely damaging underground gas and electric lines.

Once the dust had cleared Sunday, it appeared that none of those worst-case scenarios came to pass. The mayor said three windows at the historic Saenger Theater across the street were damaged but they hadn't received reports of other buildings damaged.

A sewer line was damaged as well, but the mayor said padding that was designed to protect the gas and electric lines — a major concern — worked as expected.

"I do not think it could have gone much better," said Fire Chief Tim McConnell, flanking the mayor.

He added that one crane fell and got "hooked on the building like we wanted. It's very stable." He said "it's way better than what it looks" because of the way it is resting, adding it would now be cut in pieces by workers using another crane and taken away.

Officials had repeatedly asked people not to come see the explosions but there were still throngs of people on the streets. Some had brought their own earplugs and masks to protect against the dust. Others had to be removed from nearby rooftops where they had gathered to gawk as police did their final checks.

Loud alarms sounded, and a voice on the police radio said repeatedly "Prepare for detonation!" before explosions set off a thunderous boom. Flashes from the blasts could be seen as the explosives went off.

Authorities cautioned that the building remains dangerous and unstable though it did not collapse further with Sunday's demolition. After the bodies are removed, Cantrell said, the building would be demolished.

Report: String of anti-Semitic plots followed attack at Pa. synagogue

By Michael Kunzelman
Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — At least 12 white supremacists have been arrested on allegations of plotting, threatening or carrying out anti-Semitic attacks in the U.S. since the massacre at a Pittsburgh synagogue nearly one year ago, a Jewish civil rights group reported Sunday.

The Anti-Defamation League also counted at least 50 incidents in which white supremacists are accused of targeting Jewish institutions' property since a gunman killed 11 worshippers at the Tree of Life synagogue on Oct. 27, 2018. Those incidents include 12 cases of vandalism involving white supremacist symbols and 35 cases in which white supremacist propaganda was distributed.

The ADL said its nationwide count of anti-Semitic incidents remains near record levels. It has counted 780 anti-Semitic incidents in the first six months of 2019, compared with 785 incidents during the same period in 2018.

The ADL's tally of 12 arrests for white supremacist plots, threats and attacks against Jewish institutions includes the April capture of John T. Earnest, who is charged with killing one person and wounding three others in a shooting at a synagogue in Poway, Calif.

The group said many of the cases it counted, including the Poway shooting, were inspired by previous white supremacist attacks. In online posts, Earnest said he was inspired by the deadly attacks in Pittsburgh and on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, where a gunman killed 51 people in March.

The ADL also counted three additional 2019 cases in which individuals were arrested for targeting Jews but weren't deemed to be white supremacists. Two were motivated by Islamist extremist ideology, the organization said.

The ADL said its Center on Extremism provided "critical intelligence" to law enforcement in at least three of the 12 cases it counted.

Last December, authorities in Monroe, Wash., arrested a white supremacist after the ADL notified law enforcement about suspicions he threatened on Facebook to kill Jews in a synagogue. The ADL said it also helped authorities in Lehighton, Pa., identify a white supremacist accused of using aliases to post threatening messages, including a digital image of himself pointing an AR-15 rifle at a group of praying Jewish men.

NATION

Retailer's Trump-themed ad draws strong reactions

By Abha Bhattarai
The Washington Post

A small athletic-wear company from Oregon says it is taking a stand against the president and has chosen a 30-foot billboard in Times Square depicting President Donald Trump being hog-tied in front of the White House to do so.

The provocative ad for Portland-based Dhvani, which sells $58 yoga pants, takes aim at the Trump administration's efforts to block federal funding for Planned Parenthood and other clinics. It has, predictably, ginned up strong reactions on both sides of the political aisle.

Marketing experts and analysts say the billboard is perhaps the most extreme example of politically charged advertising to date, though they disagreed about just how effective it would be in helping Dhvani achieve its goal of "creating change in the world."

The billboard, which debuted Tuesday, went largely unnoticed until Thursday, when a handful of media outlets including Fox News reported on it. On Friday morning the president's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., condemned it on Twitter.

The campaign began with "a lightning bolt of inspiration" over the summer, Dhvani's chief executive, Avi Brown, said in an interview Friday with The Post. The billboard image shows a Trump impersonator being tied up by model Michal Mesa, a Marine Corps veteran and middle school teacher.

The marketing campaign, which was photographed in August, also includes other photos of a Trump impersonator being bound, gagged and shushed.

The billboard, Brown said, has increased traffic to the company's website and social media accounts. Sales are also up, though he declined to offer specifics.

Brown would not say how much the company was paying for the billboard on 7th Avenue between 47th and 48th streets, in one of the world's most visible corridors, but advertising experts said a Times Square advertisement could easily cost tens of thousands of dollars per month.

Some of the nation's largest retailers, including Walmart, Patagonia and Levi Strauss, have become increasingly outspoken during the Trump era, tackling such hot-button issues as gun control, immigration and the environment.

"Executives are feeling pressure to take a stand on social issues," Peter Cappelli, a management professor at The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, said in a phone call from Times Square. "This is a reflection of how unusual our political situation is at the moment."

He said the billboard did not appear to be attracting any particular attention on Friday afternoon — it is placed high off the ground, among more prominent signs - though a few passersby paused to take photos. Another billboard, placed right below Dhvani's, features pop art of Trump as an alien.



Ted Shaffrey/AP

A billboard in New York City's Times Square depicts President Donald Trump being hog-tied by a woman clad in athletic wear. The billboard is part of an advertising campaign by Dhvani, a Portland-based clothing company.

"People want to do business with companies that stand for something," said Anthony Johndrow, chief executive of Reputation Economy Advisors, a consultancy in New York. "It makes sense to not just take a stand, but to take a very aggressive stand."

Brown, for his part, says he is rebranding Dhvani as an "Activ(ist)Wear" company and will donate a portion of its proceeds to nonprofits that provide health care to women.

Ex-Baltimore mayor, Pelosi's brother, dies

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Thomas D'Alesandro III, a former Baltimore mayor and the brother of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, has died. He was 90.

A spokesman for Pelosi said D'Alesandro died Sunday morning at his north Baltimore home after complications from a stroke.



D'Alesandro

Pelosi says in a statement that she and her family are devastated. She called her brother "the finest public servant I have ever known."

D'Alesandro served as Baltimore City Council president and then as mayor from 1967 to 1971, a position his father, prominent Maryland politician Thomas D'Alesandro Jr., also held. The elder D'Alesandro also served as a state delegate and congressman.

The younger D'Alesandro didn't seek re-election as mayor and went into private law practice.

Pelosi says D'Alesandro is survived by his wife, Margaret, his five children and his grandchildren.



NATION

US planning to require DNA of asylum-seekers

By Colleen Long
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is planning to collect DNA samples from asylum-seekers and other migrants detained by immigration officials and will add the information to a massive FBI database used by law enforcement hunting for criminals, a Justice Department official said.

The Justice Department published an amended regulation Monday that would mandate DNA collection for almost all migrants who cross between official entry points and are held even temporarily, according to the official. The official spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the regulation had not yet been published.

The rule does not apply to legal permanent residents or anyone entering the U.S. legally. Children under 14 are exempt. It's unclear whether asylum-seekers who come through official crossings will be exempt.

Department of Homeland Security officials gave a broad outline of the plan to expand DNA collection at the border two weeks ago, but it was unclear then whether asylum-seekers would be included or when it would begin.

The new policy would allow the government to amass a trove of biometric data on hundreds of thousands of migrants, raising major privacy concerns and questions about whether such data should be compelled even when a person is not suspected of a crime other than crossing the border illegally. Civil rights groups already have expressed concerns that data could be misused, and the new policy is likely to lead to legal action.

Justice officials hope to have a pilot program in place shortly after the 20-day comment period ends and expand from there, the official said. The new regulations became effective Monday after the regulation was published.

Trump administration officials say they hope to solve more crimes committed by immigrants through the increased collection of DNA from a group that can often slip through the cracks. The Justice official also said it would be a deterrent — the latest step aimed at discouraging migrants from trying to enter the United States between official crossings by adding hurdles to the immigration process.

Currently, officials collect DNA on a much more limited basis — when a migrant is prosecuted in federal court for a criminal offense. That includes illegal crossing, a charge that has affected mostly single adults. Those accompanied by children generally aren't prosecuted because children can't be detained.

President Donald Trump and others in his administration often single out crimes committed by immigrants as a reason for stricter border control. But multiple studies have found that people here illegally are less likely to commit crimes than U.S. citizens, and legal immigrants are even less likely to do so.

For example, a study last year in the journal Criminology found that from 1990 through 2014, states with bigger shares of migrants have lower crime rates.

Immigrant rights advocates were immediately critical following initial disclosure of the DNA collection plans two weeks ago.

"That could really change the purpose of DNA collection from one of criminal investigation to population surveillance," American Civil Liberties Union attorney Vera Eidleman said then.

Curbing immigration is Trump's signature issue, but his administration has struggled in dealing with the surge of people trying to enter the United States.



Jeffrey McWhorter/AP

Tornado rips through Dallas

Henry Ramirez, a member of the church Primera Iglesia Dallas, is consoled by his mother, Maribel Morales, as they survey severe damage to the church after a tornado tore through Dallas. Crews searched Monday through the rubble of homes and businesses torn apart by a tornado that ripped through the area the night before. One person was killed by a falling tree in Arkansas as the storms moved to the northeast.

Frustrated US diplomats fight back in impeachment inquiry

By Matthew Lee
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three years of simmering frustration inside the State Department is boiling over on Capitol Hill as a parade of current and former diplomats testify to their concerns about the Trump administration's unorthodox policy toward Ukraine.

Over White House objections, the diplomats are appearing before impeachment investigators looking into President Donald Trump's dealings with Ukraine and they're recounting stories of possible impropriety, misconduct and mistreatment by their superiors.

To Trump and his allies, the diplomats are evidence of a "deep state" within the government that has been out to get him from the start. But to the employees of a department demoralized by the administration's repeated attempts to slash its budget and staff, cooperating with the inquiry is seen as a moment of catharsis, an opportunity to reassert the foreign policy norms they believe Trump has blown past.

"It's taken a while to understand just how weird the policy process has become, but it was inevitable," said Ronald Neumann, president of the American Academy of Diplomacy.

The State Department officials parading through Capitol Hill include high-ranking diplomats with decades of experience serving both Republican and Democratic administrations. Among them is Kurt Volker, who resigned as the administration's special envoy to Ukraine after being named in the whistleblower complaint that jump-started the impeachment inquiry.

Others who have testified behind closed doors include Marie Yovanovitch, the former ambassador to Ukraine who was pushed out of the post after a concerted campaign by Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani; Michael McKinley, who resigned after 37 years in the foreign service in part over treatment of Yovanovitch; and Fiona Hill , a National Security Council staffer who worked closely with the former Ukrainian ambassador.

Volker told investigators he did not believe there was anything improper in his dealings in Ukraine. But the others have all spoken of their unease and concern about Trump's approach to Ukraine, and their testimony has largely corroborated the whistleblower's complaint, which centered on a July phone call between Trump and Ukraine's leader, as well as Giuliani's dealings in the former Soviet republic.

Trump has long cast career government officials as part of the "deep state" out to undermine him, associating the officials' service under Democratic administrations as signs of their political leanings. That's despite the fact that most longtime career officials have served under both Republicans and Democrats.

Wreckage found in search for small plane near busy NC airport

By Jonathan Drew
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Searchers found what's believed to be the wreckage Monday of a small plane that disappeared from radar the previous night while approaching a busy North Carolina airport, authorities said.

The disappearance of the single-engine plane near Raleigh-Durham International Airport prompted an intensive overnight search of a nearby state park and temporarily halted departures and landings of commercial flights at the airport.

Airport officials issued a statement Monday saying the wreckage was found but offered no other details about who may have been aboard the plane.

"According to incident command, ground crews have located what they believe to be the missing aircraft," the statement said.

The Federal Aviation Administration said radar lost track of the Piper PA32 about 7:25 p.m. Sunday as it approached Runway 32, the smallest of three landing strips and perpendicular to what the airport considers its primary runway. The FAA website said the single-engine plane typically has about six seats.

Rescuers from at least a dozen state and local agencies spent the night searching in and around William B. Umstead State Park, a 5,600-acre wooded expanse bounded by an interstate, the airport and a state highway.

The National Transportation Safety Board will be leading the investigation into what caused the plane's trouble, according to the FAA.

Airport spokeswoman Crystal Feldman said Sunday night that the dense woods and darkness hindered initial phases of the search that included helicopters scanning for signs of heat coming from the wreck.

Firefighters and other rescuers were shown on news footage heading into the woods with flashlights late Sunday and early Monday.

On Monday morning, authorities began launching drones from an airport runway to fly over the state park to assist in the search.

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KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

A pedestrian passes street art depicting Julian Assange near Westminster Magistrates' Court in London, where Assange appeared Monday to fight extradition to the United States.

WikiLeaks founder Assange loses his bid to delay extradition hearing

BY GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON — WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange appeared in a U.K. court Monday to fight extradition to the United States on espionage charges, and he lost a bid to delay proceedings so that his legal team would have more time to prepare his case.

Assange defiantly raised a fist to supporters who jammed the public gallery in Westminster Magistrates Court for a rare view of their hero. He appears to have lost weight but looked healthy, although he spoke very softly and at times seemed despondent and confused.

Assange and his legal team failed to convince District Judge Vanessa Baraitser that a delay in the already slow-moving case was justified. The full extradition is still set for a five-day hearing in late February, with brief interim hearings in November and December.

Assange hadn't been seen in public for several months, and his supporters had raised concerns about his well-being. He wore a blue sweater and a blue sports suit for the hearing and had his silvery-gray hair slicked back.

After the judge turned down his bid for a three-month delay, Assange said in halting tones he didn't understand the events in court.

He said the case is not "equitable" because the U.S. government has "unlimited resources," while he doesn't have easy access to his lawyers or to documents needed to prepare his battle against extradition while he is confined to Belmarsh Prison on the outskirts of London.

"They have all the advantages," said Assange, 48.

U.S. authorities accuse Assange of scheming with former Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to break a password for a classified government computer.

Lawyer Mark Summers, representing Assange, told the judge that more time was needed to prepare Assange's defense because the case has many facets, including the very rare use of espionage charges against a journalist, and will require a "mammoth" amount of planning and preparation.

Ukrainian officials lash out over song mocking former chief of central bank

BY NATALIYA VASILYEVA
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian officials on Monday lashed out at a comedy show that targeted the former central bank chief by joking about a recent arson attack on her home.

"Kvartal 95" is arguably the country's most beloved comedy show and was led by Volodymyr Zelenskiy before he was elected president in April. On Sunday, it released a song recorded in collaboration with a famed choir and based on a popular folk tune that went: "A house was burning, up in flames, a woman was weeping in London."

Valeria Gontareva's house in Kyiv was firebombed last month in an attack that many said was retribution over her leadership in nationalizing PrivatBank in 2016 from its oligarch owner, Ihor Kolomoyskyi. The bank was ailing financially amid a lack of liquidity and allegations of money laundering.

Gontareva, who is respected in the global investor community and is now a senior policy fellow at the Institute of Global Affairs, was hit by a car in August in London, where she now lives. Earlier that month, a car registered to her daughter-in-law was set on fire in Kyiv.

Former comedian Zelenskiy had business dealings with Kolomoyskyi's media holdings during his acting career before he was elected. The arrival of Zelenskiy has stoked speculation that the decision to nationalize the bank could be reviewed.

Ukrainian Economy Minister Timofei Mylovanov was one of those who on Monday condemned the performance targeting Gontareva.

"Gontareva is under pressure from Kolomoisky because of the ruling on PrivatBank," he said in a Facebook post. "'Kvartal 95' is associated with the government, and jokes against Gontareva could be perceived as a confirmation that the government is linked to the oligarchs."

Several lawmakers on Monday called for the choir to be banned from performing at state-sponsored events.

Zenoviy Korinets, director general of the Veryovka National Choir, told the Ukrainska Pravda website that it was his decision to allow the performance and said he regretted it.

Hong Kong officials offer apologies for spraying of mosque

BY KELVIN CHAN
Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong officials apologized to Muslim leaders Monday after riot police sprayed a mosque and bystanders with a water cannon while trying to contain turbulent pro-democracy demonstrations in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

The city's leader, Chief Executive Carrie Lam, and the police chief visited the Kowloon Mosque to apologize to the chief imam and Muslim community leaders.

Officials were scrambling to minimize the fallout from the incident at one of the city's most well-known religious sites.

The government said in a statement that Lam "extended an apology for the inadvertent spraying." Authorities called it an accident, but a bystander's account disputed that.

Muslim leaders told reporters they accepted the apology.

"Our mosque is not damaged; nothing is done wrong. Only thing is that they should have not done it. For that they apologized, so we accept it," said Saeed Uddin, honorary secretary of the Islamic Community Fund of Hong Kong.

Police also apologized later at a daily press briefing and said they had been contacting Muslim community leaders across the city.

"To any people or any groups that were affected, we offer our genuine apologies," said Cheuk Hau-yip, the Kowloon West regional commander. "We certainly do not have any malicious intent.

It was a rare case of authorities apologizing for how they've handled the protest movement, which erupted in early June and expanded to include demands for police accountability and political reforms. Protesters seized on it as the latest example of what they call unnecessarily harsh police tactics

During Sunday's protest, a police water cannon truck that was passing by the mosque sprayed a stinging blue-dyed liquid at a handful of people standing in front of the mosque's gate, according to video of the incident by pro-democracy lawmaker Jeremy Tam.

The mosque's front steps, metal gate and sidewalk outside were stained with the blue liquid, while people caught in the plume were left gagging, coughing and trying to rinse the solution from their eyes, the video shows.

Volunteers later arrived to help clean up the mosque, and by Monday morning the blue coating was largely gone.

Hong Kong is home to more than 300,000 Muslims, according to the Islamic Community Fund, which runs the city's five mosques and two Muslim cemeteries. They first arrived in the 19th century after being recruited in India by British colonizers.

Tam said on his Facebook page that he and two others went to the hospital to check for injuries.

One of those people, Mohan Chugani, a businessman and former president of Hong Kong's Indian Association, said he was passing by the mosque and stopped to chat with someone when he was hit by the cannon.

Chugani, who is not Muslim, said there were no protesters around when the water cannon and an armored car rolled up, so he thought nothing of it. Then he noticed a periscope on the cannon focusing on him.

Before he knew it, the cannon fired. "I was shocked," said Chugani, 73. It fired again.

"The second round became much more powerful. I couldn't open my eyes, and it was like my whole body was on fire," he said.

Chugani, whose left eye remained swollen shut, said Hong Kong officials reached out to apologize.

German woman charged with membership in Islamic State

Associated Press

BERLIN — Prosecutors have charged a German woman with membership in a terrorist organization and child endangerment for taking her three minor children to Syria and joining Islamic State.

Prosecutors said Monday that Carla-Josephine S., whose last name wasn't released, took her son and daughters to Syria in 2015 while her husband was on a business trip.

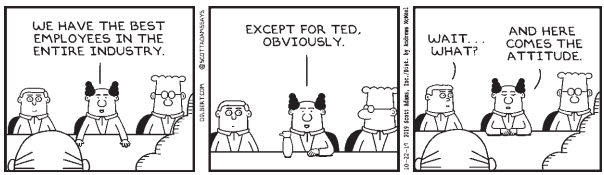
Her children underwent ISIS ideological indoctrination, and when her son questioned the teaching, she reported him to the group's leadership and he was punished. Her son also underwent paramilitary training before he was killed in 2018 when their compound was bombed.

Unable to persuade her husband to join her, S. married an ISIS fighter from Somalia in 2016 and underwent paramilitary training. She was arrested upon her return to Germany in April.

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



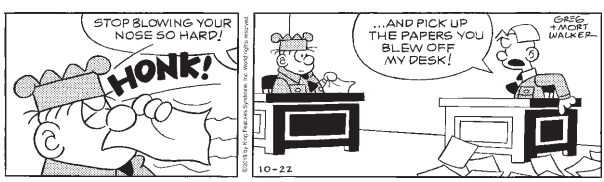
Candorville



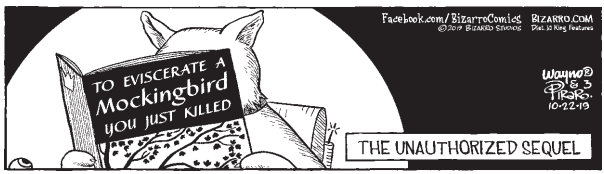
Carpe Diem



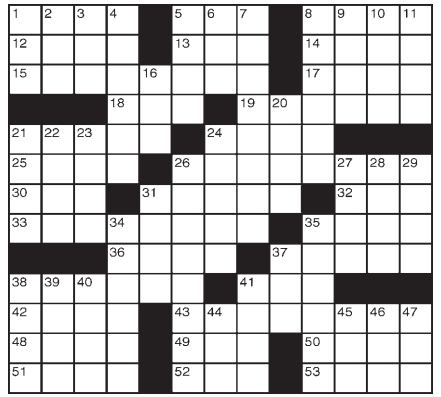
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

1 Small fruit pie
5 — de deux
8 Forum wear
12 Athletic shoe brand
13 In the style of
14 Guitars' kin
15 Fined for speeding, e.g.
17 Dorm alternative
18 Before
19 Jungle trek
21 Mixes up
24 Whittle (down)
25 Aliases
26 Clock sound
30 A Gershwin brother
31 Techies, stereotypically
32 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
33 Memory joggers
35 "Death in Venice" author
36 Tennis barriers
37 Gossip
38 "Serpico" star
41 Airline to Sweden
42 Rocker Clapton
43 Annoys
48 Drench
49 "I love," in Latin
50 Loosen
51 Pairs
52 Legislation
53 Father (Fr.)

DOWN

1 Body art, for short
2 Bird (Pref.)
3 Documentarian Burns
4 Greedy ones
5 Cracker spread
6 Pub pint
7 Inept types
8 Miss Muffet's perch
9 Gumbo veggie
10 Equipment
11 Wine region
16 Triage ctrs.
20 Sacred chests
21 Tizzy
22 Spelling or Amos
23 Apple since 1998
24 Berth places
26 Shun liquor
27 "The Good Earth" wife
28 Quitter's word
29 Hawaiian coffee
31 Hidden valley
34 New York NBA team
35 Goof
37 Tibetan bovine
38 Nuisance
39 In — (lined up)
40 "Arrivederci!"
41 Garbage barge
44 "— Believer"
45 Indivisible
46 Dime portrait
47 Nemesis

Answer to Previous Puzzle

W	O	N		C	I	V	I	C		F	L	U
E	A	R		O	C	A	L	A		O	U	T
B	R	A	S	S	E	R	I	E		O	L	E
			U	M	A		U	S	E	D	U	P
H	A	T	B	O	X		M	A	R	C		
E	R	R		S	E	W		R	O	O	M	Y
A	G	A	S		S	O	B		S	U	L	A
L	O	T	O	F		K	I	T		R	I	M
		T	A	R	S		G	R	A	T	I	S
L	O	O	K	A	T		D	U	G			
O	R	R		C	A	F	E	T	E	R	I	A
A	S	I		A	L	L	A	H		O	L	D
M	O	A		S	E	A	L	S		O	K	S

10-22 CRYPTOQUIP

XA R BMCLRXU ACRLMCUXLE GRO OKTM BRODRW OWRBIO RO SRCL KA XLO DUXAKCT, RCM LGME IRSSR BGXUKO?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DRINK SPECIALLY FORMULATED TO HELP GOLFERS MAKE EASY, CLOSE SHOTS ON THE GREEN: PUTTER MILK.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals F

WORLD

Russia eyes Africa as US pulls away

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — Russian President Vladimir Putin is following China's lead and making a splashy bid for influence in Africa, hosting the continent's leaders this week in the first-ever Russia-Africa Summit. The Kremlin has said 47 of the continent's 54 heads of state or government are expected to attend.

Russia is taking advantage of the Trump administration's seemingly waning interest in the continent of 1.2 billion people that includes some of the world's fastest-growing economies and a strategic perch on the Red Sea.

"We are not going to participate in a new 'repartition' of the continent's wealth; rather, we are ready to engage in competition for cooperation with Africa, provided that this competition is civilized," Putin told Russia's Tass news agency Sunday.

In addition to its booming youth population, growing middle class and improving infrastructure as well as long-standing natural assets like diamonds, strategic minerals and oil, Africa is also a place where Russia can grow its interests while avoiding Western sanctions imposed over its annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Russia is trying to revive relationships forged during the more engaged Soviet Union era when the USSR assertively backed countries across Africa in a Cold War of influence with the United States. While the generation of African leaders and officials who trained in the Soviet Union decades ago is aging, some such as President Joao Lourenco of oil-rich Angola are still in influential positions.

"It will be naive to say Russia's return to Africa is not about geopolitics," Nigerian analyst Ovigwe Eguegu wrote Monday for The China Africa Project blog.



ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, is taking advantage of the U.S.' waning interest in Africa by inviting its leaders, like South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, left, to a first-ever Russia-Africa Summit.

While Russia is years late to Africa in comparison with China, which has invested hundreds of billions of dollars in railways, airports and other high-profile projects across the continent, it can build on what it has kept flowing for years: guns. Russia sends more arms to Africa than any other country, and the supply is rising, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Russia has signed military cooperation agreements with at least 28 African countries, the majority in the past five years, often using counterterrorism as a basis, according to an analysis published in August by the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War.

Moscow can't bring as much to the table in terms of investment, humanitarian aid or even soft power, but its assistance is free from conditions linked to human rights concerns, making Russia an attractive business partner for other countries chafing from Western sanctions, said senior fellow Paul Stronski, of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

China issues stinging rebuke of US at defense forum

BY CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
Associated Press

BEIJING — China's defense minister lashed out at U.S. foreign policy Monday, saying China wasn't fazed by sanctions, pressure or a "big stick" approach while reiterating threats to force the self-governing island democracy of Taiwan to accept rule from Beijing.

Gen. Wei Fenghe did not refer directly to the U.S. in his opening remarks at the Xiangshan Forum, an annual gathering in Beijing patterned on other multilateral gatherings such as Singapore's Shangri-la Dialogue.

But he repeated phrases Beijing often says about Washington and its Western allies as part of what China considers an ongoing campaign to restrain its development.



Wei

"No one and no force will be able to stop the course" of China's annexation of Taiwan, Feng said in an opening address to the forum, whose catchphrase this year is "Maintaining International Order and Promoting Peace in the Asia-Pacific."

China "will never allow the separatists for Taiwan independence to take their chances or any external forces to interfere in the Taiwan affairs. Reunification of the motherland is a justified course and separatist activities are doomed to failure," Wei said.

Taiwan, a former Japanese colony, split from China amid civil war in 1949 and enjoys strong U.S. military and diplomatic backing, despite the lack of formal ties.

Referring to what China regards as unwarranted U.S. intervention in other countries' affairs, Wei said China wouldn't accept or be intimidated by Washington's actions.

He included among those "long-arm jurisdiction," China's pejorative term for the leveling of U.S. sanctions on countries such as China, North Korea and Iran.

Wei's comments Monday come amid sharpening tensions between China and the U.S. over a range of economic and security issues, from trade and technology transfer to Hong Kong and the South China Sea.

In testimony Wednesday before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, top U.S. diplomat David R. Stilwell said China's ruling Communist Party is pursuing a "repressive alternative vision" for the region that seeks to reorder it in its favor and has put Beijing "in a position of strategic competition with all who seek to preserve a free and open order of sovereign nations within a rules-based order."

Indian, Pakistani forces trade fire in Kashmir, killing 9

BY JOANNA SLATER
The Washington Post

NEW DELHI — India and Pakistan exchanged fire across the line dividing the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir on Saturday and Sunday, killing nine civilians and soldiers, according to authorities in both countries.

It was one of the deadliest sequences this year at the Line of Control, the highly militarized frontier where soldiers from the two countries regularly trade small-arms and artillery fire.

The barrage came amid increased tension between the nuclear-armed rivals.

In August, India withdrew Kashmir's semiautonomous status, shut down communications in the region and detained thousands of people. The moves incensed Pakistan, which considers itself the defender of Kashmiri Muslims.

India accuses Pakistan of stoking a three-decade insurgency against Indian rule in Kashmir by sending fighters and arms across the Line of Control. Pakistan denies the accusations.

Five civilians and one soldier were killed on Pakistan's side of the Line of Control, a spokesman for the Pakistani army said Sunday. Two Indian soldiers and one civilian were also killed, a spokesman for the Indian Defense Ministry said.

India and Pakistan claimed to have killed larger numbers of the other country's soldiers in the incident but such assertions could not be verified independently.

Gen. Bipin Rawat, of the Indian Army, told reporters that the exchange began when militants attempted to cross into Indian-controlled territory. Pakistan rejected the accusations and said India's firing was "indiscriminate and unprovoked."

Exchanges of fire across the Line of Control have increased in recent years, an ongoing confrontation that some analysts have called a "war by other means."

Iran: Magnitude 5.6 earthquake strikes

TEHRAN, Iran — Authorities in Iran said an earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.6 has shaken the country's south.

Officials said the earthquake Monday struck near Kukherd, a city in Iran's Hormozgan province. Kukherd is some 620 miles south of Iran's capital, Tehran.

There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

State TV described the depth of the temblor at 6 miles.

Japan braces for 2 more storms after typhoon

TOKYO — Japan is bracing for two more storms heading its way a week after a typhoon devastated the country's central and northern regions.

The Meteorological Agency said Monday that a tropical storm was off the southern coast of Japan's southwestern main island of Shikoku. It was heading northeast, packing winds of 66 miles per hour.

The agency said the storm could dump up to 1 foot of rain in central Japan by Tuesday evening.

Another storm is expected to hit near southern Japan later this week.

Italian experts defuse WWII bomb in city

MILAN — Italian authorities evacuated 4,000 people from the center of the northern city of Bolzano on Sunday to defuse a World War II bomb found during construction.

Three experts defused the 500-pound American bomb during a three-hour operation that also forced 60,000 people to stay in their homes and closed sporting complexes and churches, the news agency ANSA reported.

An alarm signaled the all-clear to reopen the city center just before noon, as well as a nearby north-south highway and rail line both connecting Italy with Austria and Germany.

Bangladesh: Attack over Facebook post kills 4

DHAKA, Bangladesh — At least four people were killed and dozens injured Sunday when security officials in southern Bangladesh opened fire to disperse hundreds of Muslims during a protest over an alleged social media post undermining Islam's Prophet Muhammad, police said.

The violence took place in Borhanuddin in the southern district of Bhola when angry protesters demanded the punishment of a Hindu man for the alleged Facebook comment, said local police chief Sarkar Mohammad Kaisar. The man denied making the comment, saying his Facebook account had been hacked.

Kaisar said four people were killed and the injured, including about a dozen police officials, were being treated in local hospitals. Bangladesh's leading newspapers said about 100 people were injured.

From The Associated Press

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Vegan Mexican food has become growing industry



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Jose Gamiz, a co-owner at the Mi Vegana Madre restaurant in Glendale, Ariz., prepares fresh vegan tacos on Oct. 10.

Associated Press

PHOENIX — "That's not real Mexican food," "My grandma would slap you" and "sellout" are just some of the comments Jose and Leticia Gamiz received when they started their pop-up vegan Mexican food business, Mi Vegana Madre, four years ago.

People saw them doing something new and took it personally, Jose Gamiz said. "We even had somebody write (online) in Spanish, 'They're probably not even Mexican.'"

Despite the haters, the couple's meat- and dairy-free endeavor has built a following. It's part of a growing vegan Mexican food industry in the U.S. that has seen Latinos take control of the kitchen and plant-based Mexican cuisine increasingly plant roots in areas with large Latino communities.

Las Vegas and Austin, Texas, each have at least a few eateries or food trucks that are exclusively vegan Mexican. Across Southern California, there is a slew of options. The vegan Mex wave now seems to be sweeping Arizona.

Mi Vegana Madre expanded into a brick-and-mortar restaurant in the Phoenix suburb of Glendale last year. It offers vegan takes on carne asada, al pastor and nachos with a cashew cream-based cheese sauce. Another restaurant offering vegan Mexican and Mediterranean dishes opened in January. In September, a third place opened in Phoenix led by a Mexican American family.

Keren Aguilar, 19, and sister Keyla Aguilar, 22, launched Earth Plant Based Cuisine in Phoenix's hipster Grand Avenue arts district. Other family members, including their mother, also work there.

The menu includes fish tacos, churros and soy chorizo (Mexican sausage) — all made in-house. They also have a plant-based BBQ sandwich, burger and hot dog.

The sisters and their parents have been vegan for nearly five years, and it was Keren's dream to open a vegan restaurant. It just so happened a space became available and a family friend was willing to be a financial partner.

While most American vegan restaurants offer a few basic Mexican-inspired items, the Gamiz and Aguilar families are trying to capture the array of recipes they grew up on.

"We didn't want it to have a 'vegan taste' or be bland. We wanted it to have flavors, so our spices are very important to making it Mexican," Keren Aguilar said.

Gustavo Arellano, a Los Angeles-based columnist and author of "Taco USA: How Mexican Food Conquered America," said restaurants like Earth Plant Based Cuisine are bringing a level of authenticity beyond the "hippy dippy white vegan stuff like tempeh, or they get a taco and put cubes of soy in it."

Arellano believes vegan food in Mexican and Hispanic cultures has blossomed as younger generations became inspired by ways they can cut animal products from cooking.

While some may say veganizing is misappropriating Mexican food, the country's indigenous natives ate mostly plant-based foods, according to Arellano.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro costs (Oct. 22)	$1.1455
Dollar buys (Oct. 22)	€0.8730
British pound (Oct. 22)	$1.33
Japanese yen (Oct. 22)	106.00
South Korean won (Oct. 22)	1,147.00

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	$1.2992
Canada (Dollar)	1.3107
China (Yuan)	7.0734
Denmark (Krone)	6.6978
Egypt (Pound)	16.1963
Euro	$1.1154/0.8965
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8428
Hungary (Forint)	295.86
Israel (Shekel)	3.5409
Japan (Yen)	108.50
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3033
Norway (Krone)	9.1186
Philippines (Peso)	51.02
Poland (Zloty)	3.84
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7509
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3605
South Korea (Won)	1,171.55
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9853
Thailand (Baht)	30.25
Turkey (Lira)	5.8292

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	1.82
3-month bill	1.63
30-year bond	2.25

BLM whistleblower reinstated in Nev. grazing dispute

BY SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — A longtime government range specialist who claimed he was fired in retaliation for repeatedly reporting illegal livestock grazing on federal land in eastern Nevada has been reinstated as part of a settlement of his whistleblower complaint against the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

An administrative judge for the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board had scheduled a hearing to begin Monday in Oakland, Calif., on the complaint filed in May by Craig Hoover, who worked for the bureau for 21 years before he was terminated from his job in Ely near the Utah line.

Hoover said the bureau told him he was being terminated because he had caused a four-hour delay in locating a rancher's grazing permit and had lost his government identification badge for about five minutes in the Ely field office's breakroom.

Hoover said those claims were "substantially inaccurate."

"But even if they had been fully accurate they would be completely inadequate to justify the extreme penalty of my termination after 20 years' service to BLM," he wrote in his complaint.

The watchdog group based in suburban Washington said those were simply pretexts for his discharge, constituting illegal retaliation in violation of the Whistleblower Protection Act.

Peter Jenkins, PEER's senior counsel, said Hoover had a solid performance record and the bureau's action appeared to be a "clumsy" effort to "silence a squeaky wheel."

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Authorities search for 'habitual runaway' emu

MN FOLEY — Authorities in central Minnesota are searching for a missing emu described as a "habitual runaway."

The Benton County Sheriff's Office said the big bird went missing Saturday from the Foley area, about 70 miles northwest of Minneapolis.

Emus are the second-largest living birds in the world by height behind the ostrich. The flightless native Australian birds can sprint at up to 30 mph.

The sheriff's office said there were two emus and a dog that also wandered away, but one of the emus and the dog were located.

Crop of acorns makes for squirrel paradise

ME PORTLAND — It's a boom year for acorns in Maine, where parks and lawns are covered in the squirrel-attracting nuts.

The bumper crop of acorns is the result of a phenomenon that happens every two to five years. The Portland Press Herald reported scientists have struggled to explain why these irregular "mast years" sometimes flood communities with the acorns.

Acorns fall from oak trees, and it's possible the irregular years of heavy acorn drop are a product of evolution. The Press Herald reported that the acorn ebb and flow suppresses populations of rodents and other acorn-eaters during leaner years.

Explosion spreads fire to 9 nearby homes

PA ALLENTOWN — Authorities said an early morning house explosion in the eastern Pennsylvania city of Allentown blew off the front of the row home and led to a fire that spread to nine other homes, but no serious injuries were reported.

Allentown fire officials said the 3 a.m. Sunday blast and fire displaced almost two dozen residents. Police said one person initially unaccounted for was later found safe. One person was taken to a hospital for a minor injury, and a firefighter was treated for a shoulder injury.

Officials said more than two dozen people were displaced by the blaze.

Capt. John Christopher said Sunday that crews were putting out hot spots but there was no longer an active fire. The cause of the blaze is under investigation.

Airline agent pleads guilty in ticket scheme

MA BOSTON — An airline gate agent in Massachusetts who prosecutors say converted more than 500 mostly low-cost domestic flights to more expensive international ones at no extra cost has pleaded guilty in federal court.

U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling in a statement said Tiffany Jenkins, 31, pleaded guilty Friday to wire fraud.

Officials said that from July 2016 to September 2017 Jenkins used her access to the airline's reservation database to exchange the flights at no additional cost for family, friends and acquaintances. Authorities said the Chelsea woman applied a code often used for passengers who have missed flights or experienced a death in the family, executing approximately 505 ticket exchanges for more than 100 different passengers.

She faces up to 20 years in prison at sentencing scheduled for Jan. 21.

Officer injured by SUV while directing traffic

CA LIVE OAK — A California Highway Patrol officer was injured when he was struck by a speeding SUV while directing traffic around a Northern California railroad crossing.

The Sacramento Bee reported Saturday that two officers were directing traffic about 1 a.m. around malfunctioning rail crossing gates near the city of Live Oak, some 50 miles north of Sacramento.

Sgt. Nelda Banuelos said an SUV sped around a curve and struck one of the officers. She said the other officer chased down the driver of the SUV after he fled on foot. Lucas Julian Nelson, 21, was arrested for driving under the influence with great bodily injury. He is being held on $50,000 bail.

The injured officer was flown to University of California, Davis Medical Center in Sacramento.



SARAH A. MILLER, THE TYLER (TEXAS) MORNING TELEGRAPH/AP

Meet the duchess

The Texas Rose Festival Duchess of Henderson, Eveline Ella Alford, dressed as "Anna Pavlova," greets children during the Queen's Tea at the Rose Garden Center in Tyler, Texas, on Saturday.

THE CENSUS

$60K **The amount of cash a Rhode Island restaurant said was stolen from a locked filing cabinet in a locked office.** The Providence Journal reported that the owners of Venda Ravioli told police the cash was stolen Oct. 14, the day after the city of Providence's Columbus Day Festival. Police say neither the exterior door nor the office door was damaged, but there was evidence that the filing cabinet had been pried open.

Cyclists ride to raise awareness of poverty

AL MONTGOMERY — A group of cyclists was traveling across Alabama to raise awareness of rural poverty and civil rights.

The group Civil Rides said in a news release that 20 cyclists were to take part in the ride on Saturday and Sunday. Civil Rides said the group sees poverty as a modern civil rights issue in America.

The cyclists were to make stops at sites important to the civil rights movement.

Riders were traveling from Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church in Montgomery and through Selma and Alabama's Black Belt. The ride was to end Sunday in Birmingham at Kelly Ingram Park.

The ride also raises money for the Together for Hope program and Out Hunger, a hunger initiative.

Cemetery cancels movie with Halloween theme

NC FAYETTEVILLE — A cemetery in North Carolina has canceled plans for a Halloween-themed movie night after complaints from people with loved ones buried there.

WTVD reported the free public event at Lafayette Memorial Park in Fayetteville was going to include snacks and a kid-friendly film. A statement from the owner says the park has "a wonderful green space with plenty of room to hold such an event without infringing on any burial spaces."

But the statement says when families' concerns became obvious, the event was canceled "out of respect to all."

Oldest African penguin dies in captivity at zoo

CO PUEBLO — Colorado zookeepers have announced the death of Mongo, a penguin believed to be the oldest African penguin in captivity in North America.

The Pueblo Chieftain reported Thursday that Mongo, 38, died overnight Wednesday at the Pueblo Zoo.

Scientists say the endangered African penguin lives an average of 20 years.

Zoo staff said Mongo faced various health challenges, including hormone issues. Zookeepers said Mongo had lived at the city's zoo since it opened its penguin exhibit in 1992.

Veteran police officer suspended for 5 days

CT NORWALK — A veteran Connecticut police officer who authorities said fled the scene of a drunken driving crash has been suspended for five days.

State police said Norwalk Officer Hector Delgado was on Interstate 95 in Fairfield on Aug. 8 when he struck a truck and then drove away. The 26-year veteran faces driving under the influence and other charges.

From wire reports

FACES

The more, the merrier

Performer Adam Lambert happy to see LGBTQ artists succeeding

By Gary Gerard Hamilton
Associated Press

Adam Lambert, who rose on the music scene as the runner-up on "American Idol" in 2009, says he's happy to see more mainstream LGBTQ artists find major success.

"I think it's less taboo to be queer in the music industry now because there's so many cases you can point to like, 'Oh, it worked for him. It worked for her.' I think 10 years ago, it was a lot different," Lambert said in a recent interview. "Ten years ago, it was kind of like no one really knew. And I met a lot of amazing people in the industry — executives, people, publicists, marketing people — who on a personal level were cool with me and totally open, but didn't understand how this was going to work in mainstream America, or the world for that matter."

"Now, I think there's been some research and they know better. Now, people aren't as scared. They're not as fearful. There's answers. There's examples," he continued.

One person Lambert points to is "Old Town Road" rapper Lil Nas X, who announced he was gay while his song was on top of the Billboard charts this year.

"I think I can relate to someone like Lil Nas X who waited until a song went to No. 1 to be like, 'By the way, I'm gay,'" Lambert said. "It proves a point that you can have success, big success. It is possible. Anybody is welcome to have that kind of success. And maybe it's not about what your sexuality is at the end of the day. Maybe it's about, 'Do you like the (expletive) song or not?'"

Lambert, who has been busy over the years touring with legendary rock band Queen, is hoping to move the needle again with his own music. The EP "Velvet: Side A," his first new project in four years, was released last month.

"I took a while because I really had to dial into sort of the sound that I wanted it to be, and I needed to get back to sort of why I love making music," he said.



Adam Lambert last month released "Velvet: Side A," his first new studio project in four years.

Photo by Scott Gries, Invision/AP

Brooks & Dunn, Ray Stevens join Country Music hall

By Kristin M. Hall
Associated Press

The bestselling country duo of all time, Brooks & Dunn, joined the Country Music Hall of Fame alongside comedian and singer Ray Stevens and record executive Jerry Bradley on Sunday evening, in a star-filled ceremony full of tributes to their lasting legacies.

Reba McEntire, Luke Bryan, Trisha Yearwood, Ricky Skaggs, Marty Stuart and Travis Tritt were among the guest performers during the medallion ceremony in Nashville at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. Each inductee received a medallion and a plaque that will be placed in the Hall of Fame rotunda.

Brooks & Dunn were an unlikely pairing of two artists who both started out solo. Neither Kix Brooks nor Ronnie Dunn thought the partnership would last, but decades later they are the most awarded and bestselling country duo of all time, with 19 CMA Awards, two Grammys, 25 Academy of Country Music Awards and 20 No. 1 hits. Brooks' flamboyant nature and guitar playing served as the perfect counterpoint to Dunn's stellar singing and more understated personality.

With hits such as "Brand New Man," "Boot Scootin' Boogie," "My Maria" and "Neon Moon," the pair filled arenas and sold more than 28 million albums in the U.S. alone. They took a break in 2010, but reunited in the studio nearly a decade later to release new duet versions of their hits with today's country stars in an album called "Reboot."

Brooks has often said he never understood why they made such a good pair, but it happened immediately.

"Putting the two of us together on a Tuesday, and us writing our first two No. 1 records on a Thursday and Friday is just weird," Brooks said.

They are nominated for both duo of the year and musical event at the CMA Awards in November.

Comedian and country singer Ray Stevens, who learned to play piano as a child in Clarkdale, Ga., is known for his novelty songs like "The Streak" and "Ahab the Arab," but also the earnest and Grammy-winning "Everything is Beautiful." He is an all-around entertainer who has worked as a TV personality, producer, session musician and songwriter.

Jerry Bradley came from a legacy of Country Music Hall of Fame inductees, including his father, the producer Owen Bradley who was the architect of the Nashville Sound, and uncle Harold Bradley, a famed guitarist. Jerry Bradley became head of RCA Nashville in 1973, succeeding Chet Akins and bringing in new artists like Alabama and Ronnie Milsap. He helped market the outlaws of country music in a platinum-selling album called "Wanted: The Outlaws." Under his leadership, the careers of Dolly Parton and Charley Pride flourished.

'Maleficent' knocks 'Joker' out of No. 1 spot at box office

Associated Press

The Walt Disney Co.'s "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil" knocked "Joker" out of the No. 1 spot at the box office, but just barely.

Studios on Sunday estimate that the film starring Angelina Jolie grossed $36 million in North America and $117 million internationally in its first weekend in theaters. The first film had a much stronger domestic showing, opening to nearly $70 million domestically in 2014.

"Joker" landed in second place in its third weekend with $29.2 million. Warner Bros' villain origin story has grossed over $247 million domestically.

Third place went to another sequel, "Zombieland: Double Tap," with $26.7 million. The R-rated comedy comes 10 years after the original.

And in limited release, Taika Waititi's Nazi satire "Jojo Rabbit" opened in five theaters with a strong $350,000.

'Abominable' to skip Malaysia theaters because of map

The animated movie "Abominable" will skip Malaysian theaters after producers decided against cutting out a scene showing a map supporting Chinese claims to the disputed South China Sea.

Vietnam already pulled the U.S.-Chinese production from theaters over a fleeting image of the so-called nine-dash line, which depicts much of the resource-rich sea as Chinese territory. China's claims to the sea overlap with claims by Vietnam, Malaysia and other Asian governments.

Malaysian film distributor United International Pictures said in a brief statement Monday that "Universal has decided not to make the censor cut required by the Malaysian censor board and as such will not be able to release the film in Malaysia," where it was due in theaters on Nov. 7.

"Abominable," which has nothing to do with the territorial dispute, is about a Chinese girl who helps a yeti get back to its home on Mount Everest.

Other news

■ **Sen. Martha McSally,** the Arizona Republican appointed to the seat once held by John McCain, has a book deal. William Morrow announced Monday that McSally's "Time to Fly" is coming out next May. McSally, 53, has a military background. She was the first female fighter pilot to fly in combat and was deployed multiple times in the Middle East and Afghanistan before retiring in 2010.

■ **Naomi Wolf** and her U.S. publisher have split up amid a dispute over her latest book, "Outrages." Wolf and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt announced separately Oct. 18 that they had "mutually and amicably agreed to part company" and that Houghton would not be releasing "Outrages." Houghton had delayed a planned June release of "Outrages" after questions emerged over the scholarship of the book, which centers on the treatment of gays in Victorian England.

■ Distribution of Quentin Tarantino's film **"Once Upon a Time in Hollywood"** in China has been postponed indefinitely. The reason for the delay was unclear.

■ Oscar winner **Jennifer Lawrence** got married to New York art dealer Cooke Maroney Oct. 19 at a Newport, R.I., mansion.

■ **Bill Macy,** the character actor who was the long-suffering foil to Bea Arthur's unyielding feminist on the 1970s CBS sitcom "Maude," died Oct. 17. He was 97.

SHIFTING GEARS



PHOTOS BY LAMBORGHINI/TNS

Lamborghini's 2020 Huracan EVO a heck of a ride

BY CHARLES FLEMING
Los Angeles Times

I had barely begun to experience this new Lamborghini Huracan when, at my first appointment of the day, the man I was meeting for breakfast said, "Don't you feel like a jerk driving it?"

A few hours later, after I'd posted a picture of the car on a social media site, a friend wrote, "I'm sure it's fun to drive, but doesn't it make you feel like a jerk?" (They both actually used another word that was not as nice as "jerk.")

In fact, I didn't. I felt lucky. The Lamborghini Huracan EVO is a sublime Italian sports car, a benign beast that is as easy to drive as it is exhilarating.

Around town, it is a startling headturner. On canyon roads it is a hot knife through butter. On the track, based on previous Lambo experience, it is a precision racing instrument.

The EVO is the newest iteration of Lamborghini's "entry-level" supercar family, joining the higher-priced Performante and replacing the outgoing rear-wheel-drive Huracan. Like its siblings, it is powered by a 5.2-liter V10 engine, midrear mounted and naturally aspirated, that makes 630 horsepower and 442 pound-feet of torque.

Power is applied to the pavement via an all-wheel-drive system that, on the EVO, includes rear-wheel steering, torque vectoring and other electronic aids designed to make the absolute most of the engine's energy.

It does so with brio. In Strada, Sport or Corsa driving modes, this little drop-top is a mover, snappy off the line and roaring through the gears, via paddle shifters or relying solely on the dual-clutch automatic transmission with immense speed and sure-footedness. Even in track mode, the EVO virtually refuses to bust its back end loose on sharp turns or spin its wheels on sudden takeoffs.

Its builders say the EVO accelerates from zero to 62 miles per hour in 3.1 seconds, a little below the 2.9 seconds it takes the Performante model. Both cars top out at an electronically controlled 202 mph. While I didn't test the car at anything like those levels, I believe the numbers. It's a rocket and, of course, it has the fuel economy to match.

The interior is all business, but with Italian charm. Race seats that sit low and firm are standard. The cockpit, draped in "carbon skin" coverings, is fitted with minimum airplane-like switches.

Other functions are done through a new 8.4-inch touch screen mounted in the center console. One button lifts the low nose for clearing obstacles. Another lifts and stores the convertible top. Everything needed to make it go — turn signals, windshield wipers and other essentials — is mounted in the race-style steering wheel.

Creature comforts are slim to none. This may be the only car on the planet that offers a cup holder only as an option. The touch screen is minimalist. The front end trunk holds a small overnight bag, but not much more. The glove compartment holds two pairs of gloves — maybe.

There is a radio, but what's it for? Is there music more beautiful to the ears, while driving, than the burble coming from the exhaust pipes?

So, what's the trouble?

Lamborghini advertises the EVO with the phrase "Every Day Amplified," underscoring the company's contention that the Huracan is its "daily driver" model. While I absolutely buy that idea when applied to the Lamborghini Urus — the dynamic SUV that we reviewed earlier this year — I'm not sure it applies here. This car is definitely ready for the track, and it's a blast on the Angeles Crest.

But it's less ready for the 101, or the pot-holed hills around my house in Silver Lake. It rides very low, and its suspension is very stiff. The rear-view camera helps with maneuvering, but the car's architecture presents plenty of blind spots. And, at a base MSRP of almost $300K, this isn't a car for casual parallel parking or parking lot behavior.

All Lamborghinis have the reputation for being "chick magnets." That was not my experience. I found it more of a geezer magnet. Everywhere I went, I was approached by people who wanted to look at the car, talk about the car or be photographed with the car. They were all middle-aged men like myself. (For the record, none of them seemed like "jerks" to me.)

Lamborghini said when it announced production of the Huracan in 2014 that it would double the company's total sales. And it did. Lamborghini sold 2,642 Huracans globally in 2017 and 2,780 in 2018 — far outselling the flagship Aventador and accounting for almost 75% of total Lambo sales both years. This year, the company has moved twice as many Huracans as Aventadors, though both will be eclipsed by sales of the new Urus SUV.

That leaves open the image question, which is a common one. (There is a whole genre of social media posts that picture Lamborghinis parked in spots for the disabled, next to a preening owner, and so on.) Why is this? What makes this a jerk car? I've driven Ferraris, McLarens and Bugattis. No one ever asked if I felt sleazy driving them, or if I felt like a creep behind the wheel of a Porsche, Aston Martin, Bentley or Rolls-Royce.

It may be that Lamborghini makes its cars more available to nouveau riche rock stars and athletes than Ferrari, say, which famously limits its top vehicles to a chosen few.

But does that make it fair to judge a supercar by the superstars who drive them? Not to me. I enjoyed every hour of the week I spent in the EVO Spyder, and would welcome another.

2020 Lambo Huracan EVO



Highs: Wicked quick, rich with Lambo style
Lows: Lacks daily driver comfort
Powertrain: 5.2-liter, V10 gasoline engine
Transmission: Seven-speed automatic, all wheel drive
Base price: $297,095
Horsepower: 630
Estimated fuel economy rating: 13 miles per gallon city/18 highway/15 combined

TNS

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

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Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Lt. Col. Sean Klimek, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander
Caroline E. Miller, Europe Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stripes.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.com
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast
Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.erik@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380

Washington
Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief
cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com
(+1)202)886-0033
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast
Robert Reismann, Mideast Circulation Manager
robert.w.reismann.naf@mail.mil
xsscirculation@stripes.com
DSN (314)583-9111

Europe
Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager
lewis.karen@stripes.com
memberservices@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9090; DSN (314)583.9090

Pacific
Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com
+81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)229.3171

CONTACT US

Washington
tel: (+1)202.886.0003
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Reader letters
letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts
stripes.com/contactus

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OPINION

America's overdue reckoning with China

By John A. Burtka IV
Special to The Washington Post

It's long past time to render a value on the United States' 40-year relationship with the People's Republic of China.

Thomas Jefferson once observed, "Merchants have no country. The mere spot they stand on does not constitute so strong an attachment as that from which they draw their gains."

This timeless wisdom was on full display last week with National Basketball Association superstar LeBron James' wild claim that showing solidarity for protesters in Hong Kong could lead to physical, emotional and spiritual harm for "so many people."

The United States is at a crossroads. We live in a country where the titans of industry have betrayed the national interest in search of profits from a communist dictatorship. Companies that have prospered on account of the United States' political and economic freedom, infrastructure and military protection now limit the speech of Americans and others seeking freedom to appease their minders and masters in Beijing. The consequence of this? The abolition of national sovereignty, individual liberty and the consent of the governed.

In August, President Donald Trump was widely criticized when he tweeted: "Our great American companies are hereby ordered to immediately start looking for an alternative to China including bringing your companies HOME." Whether anyone took this "order" seriously, Trump was right then and still is today. We are a country with a market, not the other way around. If this country's Fortune 500 companies value access to Chinese markets more than the vital interests of the United States, then it's imperative for the American people to marshal both political and consumer power against them until those companies are forced to choose who they will serve.

It's long past time to render a value on the United States' 40-year relationship with the People's Republic of China. What result of it has come to the American heartland besides an opioid epidemic, rising suicide rates, the destruction of the world's greatest manufacturing base, low-wage service jobs and the big-box stores that have killed the American main street? Not to mention the hundreds of billions of dollars lost to stolen technology and the dumping of excess product in markets to destroy U.S. industries, as well as egregious human rights abuses.

Perhaps the greatest irony is the fact that the companies such as the NBA and Google, which would purport to lecture "backward" Americans on the virtues of social justice, are often the ones going to bat for doing business in a regime that has put more than 1 million Muslims in concentration camps, has institutionalized sexism in the form of a one-child policy that led to the infanticide of untold numbers of girls, and has polluted the environment at a rate greater than the United States and Europe combined. We live in the age of populism, nationalism and socialism — not because the American people are ignorant, but because they are outraged by the hypocrisy of an elite class whose commitment to liberal values extends only so far as their pocketbooks or their next deal in the PRC.

The consequences of decades of liberalized trade with China reverberate far beyond the halls of power. My home state of Michigan has been ravaged by the loss or displacement of more than 80,000 jobs since China entered the World Trade Organization in 2001.

My current place of residence, Chester County, Pa., also suffers at the hands of Chinese mercantilism. The spotted lanternfly, an invasive Chinese insect that arrived on cargo ships, could cost nearly $18 billion in damage to statewide agriculture products. Chinese mushrooms of questionable legality have bankrupted a local mushroom farm in Kennett Square; and Coatesville, once known in Pennsylvania as the "Pittsburgh of the East," suffered the horrific consequences of deindustrialization for decades until Trump's tariffs provided much-needed aid to boost the city's steel industry.

Prediction: The candidate with the guts to "put the screws" to those bought and sold by Chinese President Xi Jinping will win at the ballot box in 2020 and gain the affection of the American people for a generation.

No matter how the trade talks turn out, the sun is setting on the United States' trade relationship with China. It's time we take significant economic measures to repatriate manufacturing supply chains to the Americas and establish a trading block that spans from Alaska to Argentina. In doing so, we'll create an economic boom in Latin America, ameliorate tensions at the border with Mexico and restore dignity to the United States' middle and working classes.

John A. Burtka IV is executive director of The American Conservative.

Mulvaney accidentally spoke truth on Ukraine

By Kathleen Parker
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON

Shakespeare long ago wrote that "truth will out," meaning that what's true — by virtue of its basis in fact and logic — eventually will conquer the lie.

Sometimes truth is so eager to be heard that it slips past the speaker's tongue without his conscious cooperation.

Enter acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney. On Thursday, Mulvaney's cat escaped the bag he had been carrying for President Donald Trump during his 10-month-long "acting" tenure.

Yes, yes, yes, we withheld funds to Ukraine in order to obtain help investigating the 2016 hacking of a Democratic National Committee server! You could almost hear the relief of having gotten it out — the truth, that is — so that he could get some REM sleep for a change.

Keeping the lie that there was no quid pro quo, as the official White House narrative went on and on, would have been a burden to the good, which Mulvaney is. If he were otherwise, surely he'd be the non-acting chief of staff by now. It's the liars and the not-so-good who seem to survive in the Trump administration.

Mulvaney's days, on the other hand, are likely numbered. Truth may be the heart's best friend, but it is not helpful in the sort of presidential politics being played out on Pennsylvania Avenue. This may explain Mulvaney's near-immediate walk-back of his comments to the press. He issued a statement asserting "there was absolutely no quid pro quo" (because Ukraine didn't produce anything?) and that the pause on funding was related only to "corruption" in Ukraine and had nothing to do with the fantastical server heist.

Remember that the Mueller report concluded that Russian operatives did, in fact, hack a DNC server to gain information that might be helpful to Trump's election. Trump is still so undone by this now-obvious truth that he seems determined to disprove it and has become obsessed with the conspiracy that the server somehow ended up in Ukraine and contains evidence that there was no hacking by the Russians. Even though the special counsel also concluded that there was no coordination between the Trump campaign and Russian operatives, the president seemingly has a desperate need to prove that he won by his own genius.

"I want to see the server," he told reporters in the White House last Wednesday. "I think it's very important for this country to see the server." Really? I have bad news for the president: The idea even that a single server exists — and can be hidden somewhere — is ludicrous. Nowadays, a "server" is actually dozens of different interconnected systems.

In other words, Trump has risked everything, inviting impeachment, to prove that he won fair and square. His Ukraine parry was a matter not of national security but of ego. His need for reassurance and public validation is so consuming that he's apparently blind to consequences, never more obvious than his recent dealings with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, which led to Turkey's invasion of northern Syria. In that case, however, people — not reputations — died. What part Trump's ego played in that transaction hasn't been discovered yet, but Utah Sen. Mitt Romney's theory that Erdogan issued an ultimatum and Trump caved may be getting warm.

Before we leave the subject of the 2016 election, let's be very clear: Trump didn't win so much as the Democrats lost. And, if they're not very careful starting immediately — that is, if they don't stop sounding like aliens whose implanted data receivers haven't yet mastered the code for "Mainstream America" — they could lose again.

Mulvaney's stab at survival, meanwhile, may have been a smart move. A wise friend once told me, "Always tell the truth as soon as possible." You may not win friends; you may sacrifice something wanted. But over time, lies will consume the liar, make you crazy, and paranoia usually follows. Mulvaney may lose his job over the truth — the bus under which so many have been cast sits idling outside the West Wing — and it calls for thee.

Granted, he might have skipped his other lines about "Get over it" and "We do that all the time," but he must feel that a weight has been lifted. Mulvaney, at least, will enjoy an afterlife beyond the White House. As for Trump, his paranoia expands with his prevarications. By The Washington Post's Fact Checker's count as of Oct. 9, the president had made 13,435 false or misleading claims since taking office.

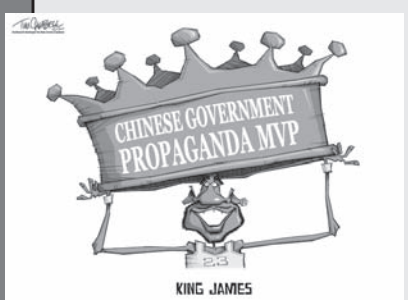
If truth ever does slip off his tongue, Congress will have to declare a national holiday.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



LISA BENSON/Washington Post Writers Group



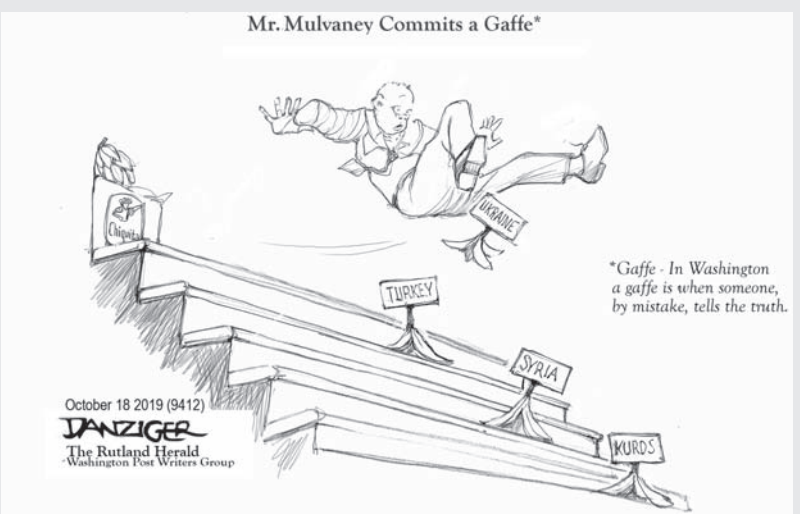
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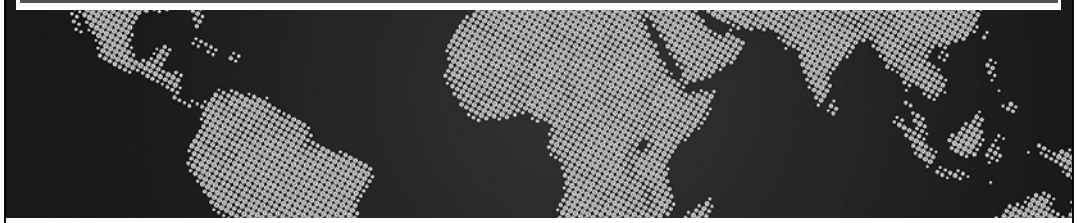
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SCOREBOARD

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Auto racing

Hollywood Casino 400

Sunday
At Kansas Speedway
Kansas City, Kan.
Lap length: 1.50 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

1. (23) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 277 laps, 53 points.
2. (14) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 277, 50.
3. (18) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 277, 41.
4. (15) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, 277, 33.
5. (25) William Byron, Chevrolet, 277, 39.
6. (11) Martin Truex Jr, Toyota, 277, 46.
7. (20) Erik Jones, Toyota, 277, 32.
8. (21) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 277, 31.
9. (40) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 277, 33.
10. (12) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 277, 27.
11. (16) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 277, 26.
12. (28) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet, 277, 25.
13. (26) Chris Buescher, Chevrolet, 277, 24.
14. (5) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 277, 23.
15. (27) Matt DiBenedetto, Toyota, 277, 22.
16. (19) Ricky Stenhouse Jr, Ford, 277, 22.
17. (29) Joey Logano, Ford, 277, 34.
18. (22) Paul Menard, Ford, 277, 22.
19. (4) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 277, 23.
20. (9) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 277, 17.
21. (3) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 277, 29.
22. (24) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 276, 15.
23. (13) Aric Almirola, Ford, 274, 14.
24. (6) Michael McDowell, Ford, 274, 13.
25. (17) Matt Tifft, Ford, 273, 12.
26. (2) David Ragan, Ford, 273, 11.
27. (33) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 272, 0.
28. (31) Corey Lajoie, Ford, 272, 9.
29. (32) Parker Kligerman, Toyota, 271, 0.
30. (36) JJ Yeley, Chevrolet, 271, 0.
31. (1) Daniel Hemric, Chevrolet, accident, 270, 6.
32. (8) Daniel Suarez, Ford, accident, 270, 13.
33. (34) Reed Sorenson, Chevrolet, 268, 4.
34. (35) Garrett Smithley, Ford, 267, 0.
35. (10) Bubba Wallace, Chevrolet, accident, 263, 2.
36. (37) Josh Bilicki, Chevrolet, 262, 0.
37. (30) Landon Cassill, Chevrolet, vibration, 203, 0.
38. (39) Joey Gase, Toyota, accident, 107, 0.
39. (38) Timmy Hill, Chevrolet, garage, 95, 0.
40. (7) Ryan Newman, Ford, accident, 72, 1.

Race Statistics
Average Speed of Race Winner: 136.491 mph.
Time of Race: 3 hours, 2 minutes, 39 seconds.
Margin of Victory: 0.126 seconds.
Caution Flags: 7 for 32 laps.
Lead Changes: 15 among 12 drivers.
Lap Leaders: D.Hemric 0-4; K.Larson 5-6; B.Keselowski 7-8; K.Larson 9-48; W.Byron 49; D.Hamlin 50-58; K.Larson 59-76; R.Blaney 77-78; J.Logano 79-82; C.Elliott 83-85; D.Suarez 87-92; M.Truex 93-125; D.Hamlin 126-218; A.Bowman 219-225; R.Stenhouse 226; D.Hamlin 227-277

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps Led): D.Hamlin, 3 times for 153 laps; K.Larson, 3 times for 60 laps; M.Truex, 1 time for 33 laps; A.Bowman, 1 time for 7 laps; D.Suarez, 1 time for 6 laps; C.Elliott, 1 time for 4 laps; J.Logano, 1 time for 4 laps; D.Hemric, 1 time for 4 laps; B.Keselowski, 1 time for 2 laps; R.Blaney, 1 time for 2 laps; W.Byron, 1 time for 1 lap; R.Stenhouse, 1 time for 1 lap.

Wins: M.Truex, 6; D.Hamlin, 5; Ky.Busch, 4; K.Harvick, 3; C.Elliott, 3; B.Keselowski, 3; J.Logano, 2; K.Larson, 1; R.Blaney, 1; A.Bowman, 1; Ku.Busch, 1; E.Jones, 1.

Top 16 in Points: 1. Ky.Busch, 4046; 2. M.Truex, 4042; 3. D.Hamlin, 4037; 4. J.Logano, 4030; 5. K.Harvick, 4028; 6. C.Elliott, 4024; 7. K.Larson, 4011; 8. R.Blaney, 4009; 9. B.Keselowski, 2229; 10. C.Bowyer, 2181; 11. W.Byron, 2181; 12. A.Bowman, 2165; 13. A.Almirola, 2148; 14. Ku.Busch, 2130; 15. R.Newman, 2121; 16. E.Jones, 2072.

NASCAR Driver Rating Formula

A maximum of 150 points can be attained in a race.

The formula combines the following categories: Wins, Finishes, Top-15 Finishes, Average Running Position While on Lead Lap, Average Speed Under Green, Fastest Lap, Led Most Laps, Lead-Lap Finish.

College football

AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Oct. 19, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Alabama (24)	7-0	1486	1
2. LSU (16)	7-0	1462	2
3. Ohio St. (13)	7-0	1429	4
4. Clemson (9)	7-0	1408	3
5. Oklahoma	7-0	1343	5
6. Penn St.	7-0	1224	7
7. Florida	7-1	1138	9
8. Notre Dame	5-1	1058	8
9. Auburn	6-1	1054	11
10. Georgia	6-1	1031	10
11. Oregon	6-1	979	12
12. Utah	6-1	852	13
13. Wisconsin	6-1	767	6
14. Baylor	7-0	732	18
15. Texas	5-2	627	15
16. SMU	7-0	587	19
17. Minnesota	7-0	577	20
18. Cincinnati	6-1	468	21
19. Michigan	5-2	440	16
20. Iowa	5-2	347	23
21. Appalachian St.	6-0	286	24
22. Boise St.	6-1	225	14
23. Iowa St.	5-2	185	NR
24. Arizona St.	5-2	134	17
25. Wake Forest	6-1	118	NR

Others receiving votes: Memphis 87, Virginia 29, San Diego St. 17, Pittsburgh 17, Washington 15, Navy 9, Texas A&M 6, Missouri 4, UCF 3, Southern Cal 3, Louisiana Tech 2, Tulane 1.

Coaches Top 25

The Amway Top 25 football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Oct. 19, total points based on 25 points for first place through one point for 25th, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Alabama (44)	7-0	1602	1
2. Clemson (10)	7-0	1511	2
3. LSU (1)	7-0	1466	3
4. Ohio State (8)	7-0	1461	4
5. Oklahoma	7-0	1408	5
6. Penn State	7-0	1326	7
7. Notre Dame	5-1	1160	8
8. Florida	7-1	1151	9
9. Georgia	6-1	1099	10
10. Auburn	6-1	1071	11
11. Oregon	6-1	1011	12
12. Utah	6-1	858	14
13. Wisconsin	6-1	824	6
14. Baylor	7-0	730	18
15. Texas	5-2	722	15
16. Minnesota	7-0	631	20
17. SMU	7-0	609	19
18. Cincinnati	6-1	461	21
19. Iowa	5-2	373	22
20. Michigan	5-2	369	16
21. Boise State	6-1	308	13
22. Appalachian State	6-0	300	24
23. Wake Forest	6-1	181	—
24. Arizona State	5-2	131	17
25. Memphis	6-1	101	—

Others receiving votes: Iowa State 83; Virginia 61; San Diego State 45; Navy 24; Pittsburgh 18; Washington 16; Tulane 8; Texas A&M 8; Louisiana Tech 7; Central Florida 6; Temple 3; Virginia Tech 2; Utah State 1; Alabama-Birmingham 1; Indiana 1.

Schedule

Thursday, Oct. 24
SOUTHWEST
SMU at Houston
Jackson St. at Prairie View
Friday, Oct. 25
EAST
Columbia at Dartmouth
FAR WEST
Southern Cal at Colorado
Saturday, Oct. 26
EAST
San Jose St. at Army
LIU at Bucknell
Miami at Pittsburgh
Bryant at Robert Morris
Liberty at Temple
Sacred Heart at St. Francis (Pa.)
Georgetown at Lehigh
Richmond at Delaware
Wagner at Duquesne
Colgate at Holy Cross
William & Mary at Maine
Presbyterian at Merrimack
Harvard at Princeton
Elon at Rhode Island
Penn at Yale
Brown at Cornell
Florida A&M at Morgan St.
Cent. Michigan at Buffalo
Bucknell at Lafayette
Tulane at Navy
UConn at UMass
Stony Brook at Villanova
UCF at Temple
SOUTH
Appalachian St. at South Alabama
Marist at Davidson
Howard at NC A&T
ETSU at Samford
Campbell at Gardner-Webb
Chattanooga at Wofford
Va. Lynchburg at Hampton
Delaware St. at NC Central
Mercer at The Citadel
W. Kentucky at Marshall
Austin Peay at Tennessee Tech
Southern U. at Alcorn St.
New Mexico St. at Georgia Southern
North Alabama at Kennesaw St.
Texas Southern at MVSU
Alabama A&M vs. Alabama St. at Birmingham, Ala.
North Texas at Charlotte
Syracuse at Jacksonville St.
Towson at James Madison
Auburn at LSU
Virginia at Louisville
FIU at Middle Tennessee
FAU at Old Dominion
Furman at NC Carolina
South Florida at East Carolina
SC State at Bethune-Cookman
Murray St. at Jacksonville St.
Abilene Christian at Nicholls
Duke at North Carolina
South Carolina at Tennessee
Monmouth (NJ) at Charleston Southern
Arkansas at Alabama
Troy at Georgia St.
Boston College at Clemson
Missouri at Kentucky
MIDWEST
San Diego at Dayton
Oklahoma at Kansas St.
Iowa at Northwestern
Wisconsin at Ohio St.
Illinois at Purdue
Bowling Green at W. Michigan
Jacksonville at Butler
Montana St. at North Dakota
Stetson at Valparaiso
Ohio at Ball St.
Morehead St. at Drake
UT Martin at SE Missouri
W. Illinois at Youngstown St.
E. Kentucky at E. Illinois
Indiana St. at Illinois St.
N. Iowa at Missouri St.
N. Dakota St. at S. Dakota St.
Oklahoma St. at Iowa St.
Miami (Ohio) at Kent St.
Penn St. at Michigan St.
Maryland at Minnesota
Akron at N. Illinois
Indiana at Nebraska
E. Michigan at Toledo
S. Illinois at South Dakota
Texas Tech at Kansas
Notre Dame at Michigan
SOUTHWEST
Mississippi St. at Texas A&M
Southern Miss. at Rice
Grambling St. at Ark.-Pine Bluff
SE Louisiana at Houston Baptist
Texas at TCU
McNeese St. at Stephen F. Austin
Northwestern St. at Incarnate Word
Texas St. at Louisiana Tech
Sam Houston St. at Cent. Arkansas
Memphis at Tulsa
Louisiana Tech at UTEP
FAR WEST
Nevada at Wyoming
E. Washington at Montana
Arizona at Stanford
Hawaii at New Mexico
Idaho St. at Utah, 4:05 p.m.
Portland St. at N. Arizona
Weber St. at UC Davis
Colorado St. at Fresno St.
Arizona St. at UCLA
Sacramento St. at Cal Poly
California at Utah
Utah St. at Air Force
Washington St. at Oregon
San Diego St. at UNLV

AP sportlight

Oct. 22

1961 — Erich Barnes of the New York Giants ties an NFL record by returning an interception 102 yards for a touchdown in a 17-16 loss to the Dallas Cowboys.

1975 — The 10-team World Football League, citing lack of television and season-ticket support, disbands before the 12th week of a 20-week season.

1976 — Twins Tom and Dick Van Arsdale appear in a game for the Phoenix Suns, the first and only brothers to play for the same NBA club. The Suns lose 111-96 to the Dallas Cowboys.

1994 — Alcorn State's Steve McNair becomes the NCAA's career yardage leader while surpassing the mark set by BYU's Ty Detmer, who had 14,665. McNair's 649 yards also breaks his Division I-AA single-game record when he leads the Braves past Southern 41-37.

2000 —Corey Dillon rushes for an NFL single-game record 278 yards in Cincinnati's 31-21 victory over the Denver Broncos. Dillon betters Walter Payton's 27-year mark by 3 yards.

2001 — New York routs Seattle 12-3 in Game 5 to win the AL pennant for the 38th time. The Yankees become the first team since their predecessors in 1960-64 to win five championships.

2005 — Mount Union drops a regular-season game for the first time since 1994, losing 21-14 to Ohio Northern in a Division III matchup. The Purple Raiders, winners of 110 straight regular-season games, had not lost an Ohio Athletic Conference or regular-season game since they were beaten 23-10 by Baldwin-Wallace on Nov. 15, 1994.

2006 — Roger Federer wins his first Madrid Masters and 10th title of the season with a three-set victory over Fernando Gonzalez. Federer is the first player in the Open era to win 10 titles in three straight years.

2012 — Lance Armstrong is stripped of his seven Tour de France titles and banned for life by cycling's governing body following a report from the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency that accuses him of leading a massive doping program on his teams.

2016 — Baker Mayfield has seven touchdown passes and 545 yards to help Oklahoma beat Texas Tech 66-59 in the game that breaks the NCAA record for combined offensive yards with 1,708 yards.

Pro basketball

NBA

	W	L	Pct	GB
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
Philadelphia	0	0	.000	—
Boston	0	0	.000	—
Brooklyn	0	0	.000	—
New York	0	0	.000	—
Toronto	0	0	.000	—
Southeast Division				
Miami	0	0	.000	—
Orlando	0	0	.000	—
Washington	0	0	.000	—
Charlotte	0	0	.000	—
Atlanta	0	0	.000	—
Central Division				
Milwaukee	0	0	.000	—
Indiana	0	0	.000	—
Detroit	0	0	.000	—
Cleveland	0	0	.000	—
Chicago	0	0	.000	—
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
New Orleans	0	0	.000	—
Houston	0	0	.000	—
Memphis	0	0	.000	—
Dallas	0	0	.000	—
San Antonio	0	0	.000	—
Northwest Division				
Denver	0	0	.000	—
Oklahoma City	0	0	.000	—
Minnesota	0	0	.000	—
Portland	0	0	.000	—
Utah	0	0	.000	—
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	0	0	.000	—
Sacramento	0	0	.000	—
Phoenix	0	0	.000	—
L.A. Clippers	0	0	.000	—
Golden State	0	0	.000	—

Tuesday's games
New Orleans at Toronto
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers
Wednesday's games
Chicago at Charlotte
Detroit at Indiana
Cleveland at Orlando
Minnesota at Brooklyn
Memphis at Miami
Boston at Philadelphia
Washington at Dallas
New York at San Antonio
Oklahoma City at Utah
Sacramento at Phoenix
Denver at Golden State
Thursday's games
Atlanta at Detroit
Milwaukee at Houston
L.A. Clippers at Golden State
Friday's games
Toronto at Boston
Minnesota at Charlotte
New York at Brooklyn
Chicago at Memphis
Dallas at New Orleans
Washington at Oklahoma City
Phoenix at Denver
Portland at Sacramento
Utah at L.A. Lakers

Tennis

European Open

Sunday
At Lotto Arena
Antwerp, Belgium
Purse: $635,750
Surface: Hardcourt indoor
Men's Singles
Final

Andy Murray, Britain, def. Stan Wawrinka (4), Switzerland, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Men's Doubles
Final

Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies (1), Germany, def. Ritzy Bam, United States, and Joe Salisbury (2), Britain, 7-6 (1), 6-3.

Kremlin Cup

Sunday
At Olympic Stadium
Moscow
Purse: $840,130
Surface: Hardcourt indoor
Men's Singles
Final

Andrey Rublev (3), Russia, def. Adrian Mannarino (7), France, 6-4, 6-0.

Women's Singles
Final

Belinda Bencic (3), Switzerland, def. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Russia, 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.

Women's Doubles
Final

Shuko Aoyama and Ena Shibahara, Japan, def. Bethanie Mattek-Sands, United States, and Kirsten Flipkens (3), Belgium, 6-2, 6-1.

Deals

Sunday's transactions

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
BUFFALO SABRES — Assigned G Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen to Rochester (AHL).
CALGARY FLAMES — Assigned D Oliver Kylington to Stockton (AHL). Recalled F Alan Quine from Stockton.
NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Reassigned F Yakov Trenin to Milwaukee (AHL).
COLLEGE
CONFERENCE USA — Fined FAU football coach Lane Kiffin $5,000 and reprimanded him for violating the league's sportsmanship policy.
SOUTH CAROLINA — Dismissed junior DB Jamel Cook after his arrest for domestic violence on Oct. 18.

Pro soccer

MLS playoffs glance

First Round
Saturday, Oct. 19
Eastern Conference
Atlanta 1, New England 0
Toronto 5, D.C. 1, ET
Western Conference
Seattle 4, Dallas 3
Salt Lake 2, Portland 1
Sunday, Oct. 20
Eastern Conference
Philadelphia 4, New York 3
Western Conference
LA Galaxy 2, Minnesota United 1
Conference Semifinals
Eastern Conference
Wednesday, Oct. 23
Toronto at New York City FC
Thursday, Oct. 24
Philadelphia at Atlanta
Western Conference
Wednesday, Oct. 23
Salt Lake vs. Seattle, 10 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 24
LA Galaxy at Los Angeles FC
Conference Championships
Tuesday, Oct. 29
Western Conference at higher-seeded team, TBA
Wednesday, Oct. 30
Eastern Conference at higher-seeded team, TBA
MLS Cup
Sunday, Nov. 10
Eastern Conference champion vs. Western Conference champion at higher-seeded team

Sunday
Galaxy 2, Minnesota United 1

Los Angeles Galaxy	0	2—2
Minnesota	0	1—1

Second half—1, Los Angeles Galaxy, Lletget, 4, 71st minute; 2, Los Angeles Galaxy, Dos Santos, 3 (Alessandrini), 75th; 3, Minnesota, Gregus, 2 (Quintero), 87th.
Goalies—Los Angeles Galaxy, David Bingham; Matt Lampson; Minnesota, Vito Mannone, Dayne St. Clair.
Yellow Cards—Polenta, Los Angeles Galaxy, 33rd minute; Gregus, Los Angeles Galaxy, 44th; Alonso, Minnesota, 80th; Alessandrini, Los Angeles Galaxy, 90th+1.
A—19,939.

Union 4, Red Bulls 3

New York	3	0—3
Philadelphia	3	2—4

First half—1, New York, Sims, 1 (Kaku), 6th minute; 2, New York, Parker, 1 (Royer), 24th; 3, Philadelphia, Bedoya, 5 (Medunjanin), 30th; 4, New York, Barlow, 4, 45th+5; 7, Philadelphia, Fabian, 8 (Picault), 105th+2.
Second half—5, Philadelphia, Elliott, 3, 52nd; 6, Philadelphia, Picault, 5 (Santos), 78th.
Goalies—New York, Luis Robles, Ryan Meara; Philadelphia, Andre Blake, Joe Bendik.
Yellow Cards—Monteiro, Philadelphia, 36th; Bedoya, Philadelphia, 58th; Parker, New York, 107th; Heinha, Philadelphia, 108th; Casseres Jr, New York, 114th.
A—18,530.

NWSL playoffs glance

Semifinals
Sunday, Oct. 20
North Carolina 4, Reign FC 1, ET
Chicago 1, Portland 0
Championship
Sunday, Oct. 27
At Cary, N.C.
North Carolina vs. Chicago

Boxing

Schedule

Oct. 18
At Liacouras Center, Philadelphia (ESPN), Alexsandr Gvozdyk vs. Artur Beterbiev, 12, for Gvozdyk's WBC and Beterbiev's IBF light heavyweights; Luis Collazo vs. Kudratillo Abdukakhorov, 10, welterweights; Michael Seals vs. Elio Heraldo Trosch, 10, light heavyweights.

Oct. 19
At Charleroi, Belgium, Ryad Merhy vs. Imre Szello, 12, for Merhy's interim WBA World cruiserweight title; Mikalai Vesialou vs. Abdelhak Bahlouli, 12, for Vesialou's WBA Continental middleweight title.

Oct. 25
At TBA, South Africa, Chayaphon Moonsri vs. Simpiwe Konkco, 12, for Moonsri's WBC World minimumweight titles.

Oct. 26
At O2 Arena, London, Josh Taylor vs. Regis Prograis, 12, for Taylor's IBF/WBA Super World/WBC Diamond super lightweight titles; Dereck Chisora vs. David Price, 12, heavyweights; Ricky Burns vs. Lee Selby, 12, lightweights; Yves Ngabu vs. Lawrence Okolie, 12, for Ngabu's European cruiserweight title; Abass Baraou vs. John O'Donnell, 12, for Baraou's WBA International super welterweight title; James Tennyson vs. Craig Evans, 10, for Tennyson's WBA International lightweights title.
At Santander Arena, Reading, Pa. (SHO), Erickson Lubin vs. Nathaniel Gallimore, 12, super welterweights; Robert Easter Jr. vs. Adrian Granados, 10, super lightweights; Efe Ajagba vs. Jack Mulowayi, 10, heavyweights; Alessandro Riguccini vs. Juan Ruiz, 10, for Riguccini's interim WBC Silver welterweight title.

NBA

WESTERN CONFERENCE TEAM CAPSULES

Dallas Mavericks



LAST SEASON: 33-49, finished tied for 12th in Western Conference.
COACH: Rick Carlisle (12th season with Mavericks, 470-416; 18th season overall, 751-627).
PROJECTED STARTING FIVE: G Luka Doncic (21.2 ppg), G Delon Wright (12.2 with Memphis), G-F Justin Jackson (8.2), F Kristaps Porzingis (sidelined by knee injury), C Dwight Powell (10.6).
KEY LOSSES: F Dirk Nowitzki, G Devin Harris, C Salah Mejri.
KEY ADDITIONS: Wright, G Seth Curry, F Isaiah Roby.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: The world will be watching the Euro pair of Doncic and Porzingis, literally. The Mavericks are headliners internationally now that the 20-year-old rookie of the year from Slovenia and the 7-foot-3 Latvian are finally getting to play together. Dallas held Porzingis out for the last two months last season after the blockbuster trade that brought him from New York, even though he could have played. The biggest question is who among the role players will emerge. Keep an eye on Wright—Dallas liked him in the 2015 draft.
OUTLOOK: The Mavericks wanted to sign a significant piece in free agency after the trading-deadline addition of Porzingis, who had just been named a 2018 All-Star before the knee injury that sidelined him for 20 months. They had to settle on Wright due to restricted free agent in a sign-and-trade with Memphis, so Dallas will lean heavily on Doncic and Porzingis while trying to get back to the playoffs after missing three straight seasons. It's the longest stretch without the postseason for the franchise since it was among the worst in sports coming out of the 1990s. It won't be easy in the West. The Mavericks will exceed expectations if they contend for a playoff spot.

Denver Nuggets



LAST SEASON: 54-28, lost 4-3 to Portland in Western Conference semifinals.
COACH: Mike Malone (fifth season with Nuggets, 173-155; seventh season overall, 212-222).
PROJECTED STARTING FIVE: G Jamal Murray (18.2 ppg), G Gary Harris (12.9), Jamal Millsap (12.6), C Nikola Jokic (20.1), G Will Barton (11.5).
KEY LOSSES: G Isaiah Thomas, F Trey Lyles, C Thomas Welsh.
KEY ADDITIONS: F Jerami Grant, G Bol Bol, F Michael Porter Jr.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: Porter was the 14th overall pick in 2018 and missed all of last season as he recovered from back surgery. He skipped the summer camps and has been limited to a balky knee. Now, he's healthy and ready to contribute. A healthy Porter gives the Nuggets another dimension on the perimeter, and another piece to add to the core of Murray, Harris, Jokic and Millsap.
OUTLOOK: The Nuggets have improved every season since Malone took over, going from 33 wins his first season to 40, 46 and 54 last season when they earned the No. 2 seed in the West. They didn't make any splashy moves in the offseason, but behind MVP-candidate Jokic, the Nuggets are a legit title contender.

Golden State Warriors



LAST SEASON: 57-25, lost 4-2 to Toronto in NBA Finals.
COACH: Steve Kerr (sixth season, 322-88).
PROJECTED STARTING FIVE: G Stephen Curry (27.3 ppg), G D'Angelo Russell (21.1 with Brooklyn), F Draymond Green (7.4), F Alfonzo McKinnie (4.7), C Kevon Looney (6.3).
KEY LOSSES: G/F Kevin Durant, G Shaun Livingston, G Andre Iguodala, C DeMarcus Cousins, G Quinn Cook.
KEY ADDITIONS: G Russell, C Willie-Cauley Stein, F Robinson III.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: All-Star guards Curry and Russell getting in sync with their communication on the floor, which might be a work in progress but they seem to be having fun as they shoot together at practice the way Curry, now the oldest player on the team at 31, and Durant used to do with opposing teammates in Brooklyn.
OUTLOOK: After five straight trips to the Finals, the new-look Warriors will try to find their way in new Chase Center with the leadership of returning veterans Curry and Green as Klay Thompson will be back from surgery after he tore his left ACL in a Game 6 Finals loss to the Raptors that clinched Toronto its first title. Thompson is expected to be out at least until the All-Star break.

Houston Rockets



LAST SEASON: 53-29, lost 4-2 to Golden State in Western Conference semifinals.
COACH: Mike D'Antoni (fourth season with Rockets, 173-73; 16th season overall, 628-499).
PROJECTED STARTING FIVE: G Russell Westbrook (22.9 ppg with Oklahoma City), G James Harden (36.1), F Eric Gordon (16.2), F Danuel House, C Clint Capela (12.0).
KEY LOSSES: G Chris Paul, G Iman Shumpert, C Kenneth Faried
KEY ADDITIONS: Westbrook, C Tyson Chandler, F Thabo Sefolosha, F Ryan Anderson, F Ben McLemore.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: All eyes will be on Westbrook and Harden as the Rockets try to prove that these two ball-dominant guards can coexist after Houston sent Paul to Oklahoma City in exchange for Westbrook. Harden and Westbrook are longtime friends and played together in Oklahoma City at the beginning of Harden's career when he was the sixth man for the Thunder. Can they put their egos aside to win out — because they want them to. But things have changed a lot since their Oklahoma City days. Can Westbrook will adjust to playing a supporting role to Harden after being the face of the Thunder for years?
OUTLOOK: The addition of Westbrook gives the Rockets two of the league's most dynamic scorers and playmakers a year after Houston lost to Golden State in the Western Conference semifinals. Harden and Westbrook will drive Houston's success, players like Eric Gordon and center Clint Capela will have to continue to improve if the Rockets hope to finally get over the hump and compete for their first title since winning back-to-back championships in 1994-95.

Los Angeles Clippers



LAST SEASON: 48-34, lost 4-2 to Golden State in Western Conference first round.
COACH: Doc Rivers (seventh season with Clippers, 307-185; 21st season overall, 894-658).
PROJECTED STARTING FIVE: F Kawhi Leonard (30.5 ppg with Toronto), F Paul George (23.7 with Oklahoma City), G Patrick Beverley (7.6), G Landry Shamet (9.1), C Ivica Zubac (8.9).
KEY LOSSES: G Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, F Danilo Gallinari, F Wilson Chandler, G-F Garrett Temple, G Sindarius Thornwell, G Tyrone Wallace.
KEY ADDITIONS: Leonard, George.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: It's all about newcomers Leonard and George. They'll be the top two options on offense. Leonard is coming off a season in which he led Toronto to its first NBA championship in early exercise his second option). Leonard returning home was contingent upon pairing with George, also an LA-area native. George, who finished third in MVP voting last season, can guard nearly any position while being a huge scoring threat. Lou Williams and Montrezl Harrell, the NBA's top bench-scoring duo last season, will get starter-level minutes again.
OUTLOOK: The NBA's balance of power has shifted to the Clippers, who have never advanced beyond the second round let alone won a championship. All that's expected to change behind Leonard and George, both regarded as two of the best two-way players in the league. The Clippers had to give up talented veteran Gallinari and star-in-the-making Gilgeous-Alexander, but they kept Harrell, Williams and re-signed Beverley. The Clippers are favorites to win it all, a stunning shift for a franchise that has spent much its existence as a punch line.

Los Angeles Lakers



LAST SEASON: 37-45, finished 10th in Western Conference.
COACH: Frank Vogel (first season with Lakers; ninth season overall, 304-291).
PROJECTED STARTING FIVE: G Rajon Rondo (9.2 ppg), G Danny Green (10.3 with Toronto), F LeBron James (27.4), F Anthony Davis (25.9 with New Orleans), C JaVale McGee (12.0).
KEY LOSSES: F Brandon Ingram, G Lonzo Ball, G Josh Hart, G Lance Stephenson.
KEY ADDITIONS: Davis, Green, C Dwight Howard, G Avery Bradley, F Jared Dudley, G Quinn Cook.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: The evolving chemistry between James and Davis will be at the forefront, but the Lakers' success in creating an immediate title contender could hinge on the supporting cast. Green must keep the outside shooting proficiency he demonstrated last season for Toronto, while Kyle Kuzma must find a role on a reconfigured roster. The Lakers' biggest early-season subplot of all might be around Howard, who returns to LA after a messy exit six seasons ago.
OUTLOOK: An aspiring super team takes shape around James and Davis, who joined forces to do a whole lot more than end the Lakers' franchise-record playoff drought at six years. LA expects to be a title contender with two of the NBA's best players anchoring a lineup featuring perimeter shooting from Green and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, fast-break proficiency from Alex Caruso and Kuzma, and sturdy defense from Bradley, Rondo and McGee. Vogel's ability to bring this talent together over the next few months will determine the Lakers fate.

Memphis Grizzlies



LAST SEASON: 33-49, finished tied for 12th in Western Conference.
COACH: Taylor Jenkins (first season).
PROJECTED STARTING FIVE: F/C Jaren Jackson Jr. (13.8 ppg), G Ja Morant (rookie), C Jonas Valanciunas (15.6), G/F Dillon Brooks (7.5), F Jae Crowder (11.9).
KEY LOSSES: G Mike Conley, G Jevon Carter, G Delon Wright.
KEY ADDITIONS: Morant, G Grayson Allen, F Brandon Clarke, Crowder, G Marko Guduric, F Solomon Hill, G Tyus Jones, G/F Jon Konchar, G De'Anthony Melton, C Miles Plumlee.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: Jackson is fully recovered from the bruised right quadriceps tendon that limited him to seven games last season to 58 games, and the No. 4 pick overall in 2018 has even grown a little bit. Morant played his way into the No. 2 draft pick overall in June, and now the 6-3 guard will get to showcase his dynamic passing abilities and court vision surrounded by players closer to his talent level than he did in college at Murray State. Valanciunas earned an extension from Memphis and now must prove he can be a reliable producing double-doubler regularly.
OUTLOOK: It's up to Jackson and Morant to lead this rebuilding process for Memphis after the Grizzlies revamped the roster as much as possible in one offseason. This season may not be pretty at times, but at least the Grizzlies have hope for the future based on a duo they hope will become big stars.

Minnesota Timberwolves



LAST SEASON: 36-46, finished 11th in Western Conference.
COACH: Ryan Saunders (second season, 17-25 as interim coach last season).
PROJECTED STARTING FIVE: G Jeff Teague (12.1 ppg), G Andrew Wiggins (18.1), F Jake Layman (7.6), F Robert Covington (14.5), C Karl-Anthony Towns (24.4).
KEY LOSSES: G Derrick Rose, G Tyus Jones, F Taj Gibson, F Dario Saric, F Anthony Tolliver, G Jerryd Bayless, F Luol Deng.
KEY ADDITIONS: Layman, G Jarrett Culver, G Shabazz Napier, G/F Treveon Graham, F Noah Vonleh, F Jordan Bell, G Jaylen Nowell, C Naz Reid.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: Towns is as versatile of a big man as there is in the league, but he can't be the scoring threat alone so the pressure will be on Wiggins to take a step forward under Saunders in the second year of his max contract extension carrying a $27 million salary cap hit. Having a defensive presence like Culver, a best defender who missed the last 45 games because of a bone bruise on his knee, will be a critical factor. Culver, the sixth overall pick in the draft out of Texas Tech, ought to provide quality perimeter defense.
OUTLOOK: The Timberwolves have started fresh, yet again, with Saunders, the youngest coach in the league, beneath an overhauled front office headed by new president of basketball operations Gersson Rosas. With Towns and Wiggins, they have a pair of under-25 standouts locked in, and a quiet offseason relative to the rest of the NBA yielded some useful role players in Layman, Vonleh, Reid, Napier and Graham. With the Western Conference even more loaded than before, though, increasing their win total will be a tall order.

New Orleans Pelicans



LAST SEASON: 33-49, finished tied for 12th in Western Conference.
COACH: Alvin Gentry (fifth season with Pelicans, 145-183; 17th season overall, 490-490).
PROJECTED STARTING FIVE: G Lonzo Ball (9.9 ppg), G Jrue Holiday (21.2), F Brandon Ingram (18.3), F Zion Williamson (rookie), C Derrick Favors (11.8).
KEY LOSSES: F Anthony Davis, G Elfrid Payton.
KEY ADDITIONS: F Williamson, F Ingram, G Ball, C Favors, G J.J. Redick, G Nickeil Alexander-Walker, C Jaxson Hayes.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: Williamson is the prized rookie. The overall pick in last summer's NBA draft, was a highlight machine at Duke and has looked fearless in his first NBA preseason — taking the ball to the hoop against the best interior defenders in the league and scoring more than 20 points in multiple games. The 6-foot-6, 285-pound rookie is a social media phenomenon and filling arenas everywhere he goes. But the additions of Ball and Redick will be important to New Orleans as well.
OUTLOOK: Of the Pelicans' four new starters brought in by Griffin, one was picked No. 1 overall this summer and two Ingram and Ball were picked second overall within the previous three years by the Lakers before being packaged with Josh Hart and draft picks in a trade sending Davis to Los Angeles. Combined with veterans like Holiday and Favors, plus Redick and Derrick Rose, there are high hopes in New Orleans that the Pelicans might contend for a playoff spot this season.

Oklahoma City Thunder



LAST SEASON: 49-33, lost 4-1 to Portland in Western Conference first round.
COACH: Billy Donovan (fifth season, 199-129).
PROJECTED STARTING FIVE: G Chris Paul (15.6 ppg with Houston), G Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (10.8 with Los Angeles Clippers), F Danilo Gallinari (19.8 with Clippers), F Andre Roberson (5.0), C Steven Adams (13.9).
KEY LOSSES: F Jerami Grant, F Paul George, G Jerami Grant, F Markieff Morris, F Patrick Patterson.
KEY ADDITIONS: Paul, Gilgeous-Alexander, Gallinari, Darius Bazley, Justin Patton, Mike Muscala.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: Even though the Thunder will be widely expected to struggle this season, the backcourt of Paul and Gilgeous-Alexander — assuming health — is certainly good enough to help Oklahoma City contend for a postseason berth.
OUTLOOK: The Thunder went all-in on title-chasing in recent years, and now they're all-in on a reset after trading away Westbrook and George. GM Sam Presti has accumulated more than a dozen first-round picks over the next seven years to play with if he's inclined to make a big move.

Phoenix Suns

LAST SEASON: 19-63, finished 15th in Western Conference.
COACH: Monty Williams (first season with Suns, sixth season overall, 173-221).
PROJECTED STARTING FIVE: G Ricky Rubio (12.7 ppg), G Devin Booker (26.6), F Kelly Oubre Jr. (15.2), F Dario Saric (10.6), C Deandre Ayton (16.3)
KEY LOSSES: F T.J. Warren, G/F Josh Jackson
KEY ADDITIONS: Rubio, Saric, G/F Cameron Johnson, F Frank Kaminsky III, F Cheick Diallo, G Ty Jerome
PLAYERS TO WATCH: The Suns are trying to build a winning team around the core of Ayton and Booker, who are both still young and put up big numbers last season. The 7-foot-1 Ayton averaged a double-double in his rookie season while shooting nearly 59 percent from the field. Booker averaged 26.6 points per game and nearly seven assists. Oubre was a pleasant surprise after joining the team midway through last season, scoring nearly 17 points per game after the trade and playing good defense. Rubio's presence also allows Booker to play off the ball and focus on scoring.
OUTLOOK: The Suns should be much better than the 19-win version of a year ago. Rubio, along with the input first-year coach Monty Williams, should give the starting lineup some discipline and structure. Phoenix's ceiling depends on the development of Ayton and Booker. If the two can develop into All-Star caliber players than there might be something brewing in the desert.

Portland Trail Blazers



LAST SEASON: 53-29, lost 4-0 to Golden State in the Western Conference finals.
COACH: Terry Stotts (eighth season with Trail Blazers, 325-249; 12th season overall, 440-417).
PROJECTED STARTING FIVE: G Damian Lillard (25.8 ppg), G CJ McCollum (21.0), F Rodney Hood (11.2), F Zach Collins (8.6), C Hassan Whiteside (12.3 with Miami).
KEY LOSSES: F Al-Farouq Aminu, F Evan Turner, F Maurice Harkless, Meyers Leonard
KEY ADDITIONS: Whiteside, C Pau Gasol, F Anthony Tolliver, G Kent Bazemore.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: The Blazers will count on Whiteside at center while Jusuf Nurkic recovers from a broken leg he suffered during a game in March. Nurkic probably won't return until January, at the earliest. The Blazers added some veteran presence at the position by signing Pau Gasol, who is also making his way back from surgery. Portland will look to Zach Collins to take the next step in his third season in the league. Damian Lillard and CJ McCollum form one of the best backcourt duos in the league.
OUTLOOK: In the loaded Western Conference, the revamped Trail Blazers, with a total of seven new players, will need time to come together sooner rather than later. Expectations are high for Portland after making the Western Conference finals last season, and players say they're not going to be satisfied with simply making the playoffs, the goal now is to go deep into the postseason.

Sacramento Kings



LAST SEASON: 39-43, finished ninth in Western Conference.
COACH: Luke Walton (first season with Kings, fourth season overall, 98-148).
PROJECTED STARTING FIVE: G De'Aaron Fox (17.3 ppg), G Buddy Hield (20.7), F Harrison Barnes (14.3), F Marvin Bagley III (14.9), C Dewayne Dedmon (10.8).
KEY LOSSES: C Willie Cauley-Stein, F Corey Brewer.
KEY ADDITIONS: Dedmon, F Trevor Ariza, G Cory Joseph, F Richaun Holmes.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: The Kings are building around emerging stars Fox and Bagley. Fox took a major step in his second season to become one of the most complete point guards in the NBA. His speed fuels Sacramento's up-tempo attack and Walton hopes to get improved defense and three-point shooting from Bagley this season out of Fox to make him a more complete player. Bagley started only a handful of games as a rookie but took big strides in the second half, increasing his scoring average more than seven points per game after the All-Star break to 18.5.
OUTLOOK: The Kings extended the longest active playoff drought in the NBA last season when they missed the postseason for the 13th straight season. But they were the youngest team in the league in that stretch and finished ninth in the conference. The players view getting into the playoffs as a benchmark for a successful season but that will be hard in a deep Western Conference.

San Antonio Spurs



LAST SEASON: 48-34, lost 4-3 to Denver in Western Conference first round.
COACH: Gregg Popovich (24th season, 1245-575).
PROJECTED STARTING FIVE: G Dejounte Murray (missed last season with knee injury), G Bryn Forbes (11.8 ppg), G DeMar DeRozan (21.2), F LaMarcus Aldridge (21.3), C Jakob Poeltl (5.5).
KEY LOSSES: None
KEY ADDITIONS: F DeMarre Carroll, F Trey Lyles, G/F Keldon Johnson, F Luka Samanic
PLAYERS TO WATCH: DeRozan spent most of last season processing a trade that unexpectedly sent him to the Spurs and away from the Toronto Raptors, the franchise he helped lead to its first title. He watched them win a title. Murray's injury also forced DeRozan to become the team's main distributor for the first time in his career. DeRozan set a career high with 6.2 assists per game but also had his second-lowest scoring average in six seasons.
OUTLOOK: The Spurs continue to get younger and faster while trying to maintain their veteran defense and corporate knowledge. The latter received a huge boost with the addition of Hall of Famer Tim Duncan as an assistant coach. Duncan's knowledge of the Spurs' system, work ethic and camaraderie should help the team's development as it attempts to an establish an identity separate from but similar to the Big Three era spearheaded by Duncan that led to five NBA titles.

Utah Jazz



LAST SEASON: 50-32, lost 4-1 to Houston in Western Conference first round.
COACH: Quin Snyder (sixth season, 227-183).
PROJECTED STARTING FIVE: G Mike Conley (21.1 ppg), G Donovan Mitchell (23.8), F Bojan Bogdanovic. (18.0), F Joe Ingles (12.1), C Rudy Gobert (15.9)
KEY LOSSES: F/C Derrick Favors, G Ricky Rubio, F Jae Crowder, G Kyle Korver.
KEY ADDITIONS: Conley, Bogdanovic, F Jeff Green, C Ed Davis, G Emmanuel Mudiay.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: All eyes will be on Mitchell to see if he can emerge as a true All-Star this season. The third-year guard, who averaged at least 20 points in each of his first two seasons, will have to shoulder as big of a load in creating the offense with Conley now sharing the backcourt. Gobert, a two-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year, will anchor one of the league's best defenses again. He posted career-highs in points (15.9) and rebounds (12.9) a year ago. Bogdanovic adds a valuable shooter on the wing with Ingles that should give the Jazz an improved outside scoring punch.
OUTLOOK: The Jazz are well positioned to take a step forward and become a Western Conference title contender. Utah's fortunes, ultimately, will rise and fall on the continued progression of the central star duo of Mitchell and Gobert. If the Jazz offense can catch up to the team's elite defense this season, few teams will be able hang with Utah.

NBA

WESTERN CONFERENCE PREVIEW

Clippers heavy favorite in talent-rich West

Five-time defending Conference champion Warriors ready to adapt

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

Stephen Curry knew roster change was inevitable.

That being said, Curry and the Golden State Warriors aren't changing their expectations.

The five-time defending Western Conference champions aren't the popular pick to represent their side of the league in this season's NBA Finals, understandable after losing the likes of Kevin Durant and Andre Iguodala. But Curry said the Warriors will strive to remain what they've been over the last half-decade — "a team that's feared across the league."



Curry

"Look at every era of basketball," Curry said. "For a team to sustain this type of level of play and this greatness, it doesn't happen that often. And when you need to retool, it may look different, but the great teams, great players figure it out as they go."

The Los Angeles Clippers are the prohibitive favorite to win the NBA title, at least according to oddsmakers in Las Vegas, after landing Kawhi Leonard and Paul George. The Los Angeles Lakers still have LeBron James, and added Anthony Davis. Houston reunited James Harden with Russell Westbrook. Denver and Utah bring back strong cores. Portland might have the league's best backcourt.

"You just can't take it for granted," Oklahoma City general manager Sam Presti said. "It's really, really hard to win games in the NBA, especially the Western Conference, the way it is now."

Maybe harder than ever.

"We want to maintain the culture that we've built, but we want to make sure our players are put in the best position to succeed, and the last four years we pretty much knew exactly what that meant," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "We don't really know what it means this year. That's why we have a lot of work ahead, but it's exciting."

Houston coach Mike D'Antoni said the West will be great for fans and the league — not so much for coaches, players and owners.

"Somebody is probably going to come in ninth and get fired when they shouldn't because they did a great job," D'Antoni said. "But that's the way it is."

A look at the West, in predicted order of regular-season finish:



Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard



AP photos

The Los Angeles Lakers have teamed four-time league MVP LeBron James, left, with with six-time All-Star Anthony Davis in hopes of bringing the franchise a 17th NBA championship.

Playoff bound

1. Denver — The team that few are talking about, for puzzling reasons. They're young, they already know how to win and the Nuggets' win total has risen in each of coach Michael Malone's first four seasons there. No reason to think that won't continue.

2. Houston — James Harden is entering his 11th season. Russell Westbrook is entering his 12th. Mike D'Antoni is entering the last year of his contract. It sure seems like title-or-bust time in Houston, and the wide-open West could be for their taking.

3. L.A. Clippers — When Paul George gets back from his recovery from shoulder surgeries to join Kawhi Leonard on the new-look Clippers, this is going to be a team with frightening potential on defense. They'll peak toward the end, and could win it all.

4. L.A. Lakers — This is absolutely not to say they're the fourth-best team in the West. LeBron James knows it's all about April, May and June, and he certainly isn't going to care where the Lakers are seeded as long as they're in the playoffs.

5. Utah — Donovan Mitchell is just starting to come into his own, Rudy Gobert is still the defensive player of the year and Joe Ingles is better than people realize. The addition of Bojan Bogdanovic was big, as was adding Mike Conley — if healthy.

6. Golden State — The five-time defending West champs lost Durant, Iguodala and Shaun Livingston — plus won't have Klay Thompson for most of the season. But they still have Curry. Relax.

7. Portland — This is way too low, but that's life in the West right now. Damian Lillard and CJ McCollum are elite, Terry Stotts is underrated and don't be surprised if the Blazers tweak the roster after Jusuf Nurkic returns to take a title shot.

8. San Antonio — LaMarcus Aldridge and DeMar DeRozan lead a team that features a young core of Lonnie Walker IV, Dejounte Murray and Derrick White. Oh, and Gregg Popovich is still there. Count the Spurs out at your own risk.

In the mix

9. Dallas — Dirk Nowitzki is gone, but the new star pairing of Luka Doncic and Kristaps Porzingis has enormous potential. The Mavs haven't won a playoff series since the 2011 NBA Finals — this season will see them get closer.

10. Minnesota — Ryan Saunders' first full season will lead to improvement, but even a five-game leap to .500 won't get it done as far as a West playoff berth this season. But if Karl-Anthony Towns plays 82 games at his potential, who knows?

11. Sacramento — Rick Adelman took the Kings to their last playoff appearance in 2006. Luke Walton is the team's 10th different coach since; he has Harrison Barnes, De'Aaron Fox, Marvin Bagley and Buddy Hield, yet still faces a tall task.

12. New Orleans — Zion Williamson's knee is already a concern, not a good sign for the No. 1 overall pick. While Lonzo Ball's shot is better and J.J. Redick has never missed a postseason, it may be tough sledding for New Orleans if Williamson can't go all-out.

Facing long odds

13. Oklahoma City — There is a lot of talent on this team: Chris Paul, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Danilo Gallinari, Steven Adams. If all goes right, the Thunder will contend for a spot. Or will they make more trades and collect more picks?

14. Phoenix — Devin Booker is entering his prime. But the Suns have averaged 22 wins over the last four seasons, are on their fourth coach — Monty Williams — in a span of 24 months and still seem overmatched in the loaded West.

15. Memphis — The Grizzlies' first-round pick in 2020 is top-six protected or else it conveys to Boston. The Celtics might not want to plan on getting this one. This year's goal for the Grizzlies? Simple: Get Ja Morant settled into his new job.

Did you know

By teaming James Harden and Russell Westbrook, Houston becomes the sixth team to have two players who each won an MVP in the last three seasons. Of the other five, four won an NBA championship.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Western wisdom

Three-team ring circus: Kawhi Leonard has a chance to win a ring with a third different team if the Clippers win the title. LeBron James and Danny Green would do the same if the Lakers win it all. The only players to win a championship with three different franchises: John Salley and Robert Horry.

San Antonio streak: The Spurs — and head coach Greg Popovich — are bidding for a 23rd consecutive playoff appearance, which would give the Spurs outright possession of the NBA record. They're currently tied with Philadelphia with 22 straight playoff trips (1950 through 1971).



Popovich

Wide open: The league's general managers have wildly different views on which team will win the West. In a poll of GMs, six different West teams — the Clippers, the Lakers, Golden State, Houston, Denver and Portland — got at least one vote as the West's best.

LeBron milestone: LeBron James has 993 games of 20 or more points, third-most in NBA history. When he gets to 1,000 of those, he'll be the last to hit that milestone for many years. Kevin Durant may be the next; he's got 720.

AUTO RACING/NHL

Hamlin holds off Elliott in cut-off race at Kansas

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Denny Hamlin was surrounded by Joe Gibbs Racing teammates at the front on the final restart, and that put Chase Elliott in the most difficult and precarious of situations.

Somehow, he figured, he needed to find a way to beat them all to advance in NASCAR's playoffs.

It turned out second place was good enough.



Hamlin

Hamlin roared away with a push from behind from teammate Kyle Busch on the second shot at a green-white-checkered finish, and Elliott was unable to chase him down. But deep in the field, Brad Keselowski was going backward, and the spots he lost in the elimination race at Kansas Speedway were enough to send Elliott through in the final cut-off spot to the round of eight.

Hamlin won the race. Elliott felt almost as if he did.

"You have to stay fighting in these things, especially with the late-race restarts," he said. "Just excited we get to fight another race. Back up against the wall, to come out here and battle for the win, that's what you have to do when you're in the position we were in."

In a bit of irony, it was Keselowski who helped bring out the caution in the first overtime when he got into Daniel Suarez and triggered a wreck that collected teammate Joey Logano. The field was nearing the start-finish line but the caution light came on before the leader took the white flag.

If Hamlin had crossed a split-second quicker, the race would have been over and Keselowski safe.

"I pushed as hard as I knew how and didn't quite do good enough on the last restart and that was it," Keselowski said. "We clawed as hard as we could and there were times it looked like we were going to be fine and times it didn't. In the end it didn't work out."

Kyle Busch ultimately finished third, followed by Kurt Busch and William Byron. But the key was Keselowski, who dropped from 13th to 19th on the final restart and out of the next round of the playoffs.

He ended up three points — equal to three positions on the track — below the cutoff line.

Byron was the next driver eliminated despite a strong run at Kansas, where he would have needed a win to advance. Alex Bowman and home-state hero Clint Bowyer also were eliminated.

"I did think we were OK," Keselowski said, "but obviously we weren't."

The win was the fifth this season for Hamlin, who already was in good shape to advance but picked up valuable playoff points with the win. He'd finished in the top five at Kansas twice in the past couple years, but the trip to victory lane was the first for his Joe Gibbs Racing team since 2012.

"This was a tough track for us. We didn't run very good here in the spring," said his crew chief, Chris Gabehart. "We got a few key adjustments that turned us into a dominant car."



Charlie Riedel/AP

Denny Hamlin, front right, crosses the finish line ahead of Chase Elliott, back right, and Kyle Busch to win Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series playoff elimination race in Kansas City, Kan.



Stacy Bengs/AP

The Canadiens' Nick Cousins, left, controls the puck against the Wild's Carson Soucy in the first period of Sunday's game in St. Paul, Minn. The Wild won 4-3 for just their second victory of the season.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Buffalo	9	7	1	1	15	34	21
Boston	8	5	1	2	12	22	18
Toronto	9	5	3	1	11	35	31
Montreal	9	4	3	2	10	34	30
Tampa Bay	8	4	3	1	9	29	27
Florida	8	3	3	2	8	26	31
Detroit	8	3	5	0	6	19	28
Ottawa	8	1	5	1	3	16	27
Metropolitan Division							
Washington	10	6	2	2	14	36	31
Pittsburgh	9	6	3	0	12	32	23
Carolina	9	6	3	0	12	30	25
N.Y. Islanders	8	5	3	0	10	21	20
Columbus	8	3	3	2	8	18	26
New Jersey	8	2	4	2	6	19	31
Philadelphia	6	2	3	1	5	15	19
N.Y. Rangers	6	2	4	0	4	17	22

Western Conference

Central Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	8	7	0	1	15	35	21
Winnipeg	10	5	5	0	10	28	33
Nashville	8	4	3	1	9	32	31
St. Louis	8	3	2	3	9	24	29
Chicago	6	2	3	1	5	18	20
Dallas	10	2	7	1	5	21	31
Minnesota	8	2	6	0	4	18	32
Pacific Division							
Edmonton	9	7	1	1	15	31	21
Vegas	9	6	3	0	12	32	21
Anaheim	9	6	3	0	12	23	16
Calgary	10	5	4	1	11	26	27
Vancouver	8	5	3	0	10	25	17
Arizona	7	4	2	1	9	21	13
San Jose	8	3	5	0	6	21	28
Los Angeles	8	3	5	0	6	24	32

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Saturday's games

New Jersey 1, Vancouver 0
Montreal 5, St. Louis 2
Vegas 3, Pittsburgh 0
N.Y. Islanders 3, Columbus 2, OT
Colorado 6, Tampa Bay 2
Toronto 4, Boston 3, OT
Arizona 5, Ottawa 2
Dallas 4, Philadelphia 1
Florida 3, Nashville 2, SO
Los Angeles 4, Calgary 1
Buffalo 4, San Jose 3

Sunday's games

Vancouver 3, N.Y. Rangers 2
Minnesota 4, Montreal 3
Washington 5, Chicago 3
Winnipeg 1, Edmonton 0, SO
Calgary 2, Anaheim 1

Monday's games

Columbus at Toronto
Vegas at Philadelphia
Colorado at St. Louis
Ottawa at Dallas

Tuesday's games

Arizona at N.Y. Rangers
San Jose at Buffalo
Toronto at Boston
Pittsburgh at Florida
Vancouver at Detroit
Los Angeles at Winnipeg
Edmonton at Minnesota
Anaheim at Nashville
Vegas at Chicago
Washington at Calgary

Sunday

Flames 2, Ducks 1

Calgary	**0**	**1**	**1—2**
Anaheim	**0**	**1**	**0—1**

Second Period—1, Anaheim, Silfverberg 5 (H.Lindholm, Manson), 0:12. 2, Calgary, Stone 1 (Brodie, Gaudreau), 15:32.

Third Period—3, Calgary, Backlund 2 (Czarnik, Tkachuk), 8:57.

Shots on Goal—Calgary 11-12-6—29. Anaheim 9-10-11—30.

Power-play opportunities—Calgary 0 of 0; Anaheim 0 of 3.

Goalies—Calgary, Talbot 1-1-0 (30 shots-29 saves). Anaheim, Gibson 4-3-0 (29-27).

A—15,690 (17,174). **T**—2:20.

Capitals 5, Blackhawks 3

Washington	**1**	**1**	**3—5**
Chicago	**0**	**1**	**2—3**

First Period—1, Washington, Oshie 7 (Kuznetsov), 9:25 (pp).

Second Period—2, Chicago, Caggiula 2 (Nylander, Carpenter), 8:25. 3, Washington, Dowd 2 (Hagelin), 9:53 (sh).

Third Period—4, Washington, Ovechkin 6 (Kempny, Carlson), 3:52. 5, Chicago, Kubalik 2 (Saad, Kampf), 6:05. 6, Chicago, Kane 3 (Nylander), 9:58. 7, Washington, Wilson 3 (Hagelin, Eller), 11:47. 8, Washington, Eller 3 (Orlov), 19:10.

Shots on Goal—Washington 12-9-9—30. Chicago 14-15-15—44.

Power-play opportunities—Washington 1 of 1; Chicago 0 of 5.

Goalies—Washington, Holtby 3-1-2 (44 shots-41 saves). Chicago, Crawford 1-3-0 (29-25).

A—21,187 (19,717). **T**—2:30.

Jets 1, Oilers 0 (SO)

Edmonton	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0—0**
Winnipeg	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1—1**

Winnipeg won shootout 2-0.

Shootout—Edmonton 0 (Nugent-Hopkins NG, McDavid NG), Winnipeg 2 (Connor G, Laine G).

Shots on Goal—Edmonton 7-8-9-4—28. Winnipeg 2-9-10-2—23.

Power-play opportunities—Edmonton 0 of 2; Winnipeg 0 of 4.

Goalies—Edmonton, Smith 3-1-1 (23 shots-23 saves). Winnipeg, Hellebuyck 4-3-0 (28-28).

A—15,321 (15,321). **T**—2:31.

Wild 4, Canadiens 3

Montreal	**0**	**2**	**1—3**
Minnesota	**1**	**1**	**2—4**

First Period—1, Minnesota, Zucker 3 (Suter, Koivu), 8:57 (pp).

Second Period—2, Montreal, Tatar 3 (Petry, Domi), 2:50 (pp). 3, Montreal, Danault 3 (Byron), 3:06. 4, Minnesota, Foligno 1 (Staal, Kunin), 19:45.

Third Period—5, Montreal, Danault 4 (Gallagher), 3:22. 6, Minnesota, Hunt 3 (Dumba, Greenway), 8:38 (pp). 7, Minnesota, Parise 3 (Koivu, Zucker), 12:54.

Shots on Goal—Montreal 7-12-14—33. Minnesota 19-9-5—33.

Power-play opportunities—Montreal 1 of 2; Minnesota 2 of 5.

Goalies—Montreal, Kinkaid 0-1-1 (33 shots-29 saves). Minnesota, Dubnyk 1-5-0 (33-30).

A—17,344 (18,064). **T**—2:29.

Canucks 3, Rangers 2

Vancouver	**3**	**0**	**0—3**
N.Y. Rangers	**0**	**1**	**1—2**

First Period—1, Vancouver, Horvat 2 (Pettersson, Hughes), 6:01 (pp). 2, Vancouver, Boeser 2 (Pettersson), 13:34. 3, Vancouver, Beagle 1 (Tanev), 16:53 (sh).

Second Period—4, N.Y. Rangers, Fast 2 (Strome, Trouba), 14:58.

Third Period—5, N.Y. Rangers, Panarin 4 (Fast, Zibanejad), 5:31.

Shots on Goal—Vancouver 20-17-6—43. N.Y. Rangers 13-10-17—40.

Power-play opportunities—Vancouver 1 of 3; N.Y. Rangers 0 of 3.

Goalies—Vancouver, Markstrom 3-2-0 (40 shots-38 saves). N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 1-3-0 (43-40).

A—17,030 (18,006). **T**—2:17.

Calendar

Oct. 26 — Tim Hortons NHL Heritage Classic, Calgary vs. Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatchewan.

Nov. 18 — Hockey Hall of Fame induction, Toronto.

Jan. 1, 2020 — Winter Classic, Nashville at Dallas (Cotton Bowl).

Jan. 26 — All-Star Game, St. Louis.

April 4 — Regular season ends.

Roundup

Wild get 2nd win of season

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Zach Parise scored the go-ahead goal midway through the third period and the Minnesota Wild won their second game of the season, beating the Montreal Canadiens 4-3 on Sunday.

Jason Zucker, Marcus Foligno and Brad Hunt also scored for Minnesota, which matched its highest goal total through eight games this season. The Wild also scored four goals in a 7-4 home loss to Pittsburgh.

Devan Dubnyk made 29 saves and earned his first win of the season.

Canucks 3, Rangers 2: Brock Boeser and Jay Beagle scored late in a three-goal first period and visiting Vancouver held on to beat New York.

Bo Horvat also scored and Elias Pettersson had two assists for Vancouver, which bounced back from a 1-0 loss at New Jersey on Saturday to win for the fifth time in six games.

Capitals 5, Blackhawks 3: Tom Wilson broke a tie with 8:13 left and Washington rebounded after blowing a two-goal lead to beat host Chicago for its third straight win.

Wilson beat Corey Crawford from the right edge of the crease with his third goal after he was left open and took a cross-ice pass from Carl Hagelin to put Washington ahead 4-3. Lars Eller added an empty-netter from his own zone with 49.3 seconds remaining.

Flames 2, Ducks 1: Mikael Backlund scored with 11:03 left, Cam Talbot made 29 saves and visiting Calgary rallied to beat Anaheim.

Michael Stone also scored for the Flames, who snapped a three-game road losing streak.

Jets 1, Oilers 0 (SO): Kyle Connor and Patrik Laine scored in the shootout and host Winnipeg snapped a three-game skid.

NFL



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Kendrick Bourne makes a splash as he is tackled during the second half against the Washington Redskins on a rainy Sunday in Landover, Md.

Scoreboard

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East						
New England	6	0	0	1.000	190	48
Buffalo	5	1	0	.833	121	91
N.Y. Jets	1	4	0	.200	63	123
Miami	0	6	0	.000	63	211
South						
Indianapolis	4	2	0	.667	143	138
Houston	4	3	0	.571	185	164
Jacksonville	3	4	0	.429	144	148
Tennessee	3	4	0	.429	121	112
North						
Baltimore	5	2	0	.714	214	156
Cleveland	2	4	0	.333	120	154
Pittsburgh	2	4	0	.333	123	131
Cincinnati	0	7	0	.000	114	186
West						
Kansas City	5	2	0	.714	202	150
Oakland	3	3	0	.500	127	165
Denver	2	5	0	.286	112	136
L.A. Chargers	2	5	0	.286	140	141

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East						
Dallas	4	3	0	.571	190	124
Philadelphia	3	4	0	.429	171	186
N.Y. Giants	2	5	0	.286	132	187
Washington	1	6	0	.143	90	176
South						
New Orleans	6	1	0	.857	164	147
Carolina	4	2	0	.667	166	133
Tampa Bay	2	4	0	.333	173	185
Atlanta	1	6	0	.143	145	223
North						
Green Bay	6	1	0	.857	184	139
Minnesota	5	2	0	.714	192	123
Chicago	3	3	0	.500	112	105
Detroit	2	3	1	.417	149	160
West						
San Francisco	6	0	0	1.000	156	64
Seattle	5	2	0	.714	181	176
L.A. Rams	4	3	0	.571	190	164
Arizona	3	3	1	.500	161	192

Thursday's game

Kansas City 30, Denver 6

Sunday's games

San Francisco 9, Washington 0
Green Bay 42, Oakland 24
Buffalo 31, Miami 21
Arizona 27, N.Y. Giants 21
L.A. Rams 37, Atlanta 10
Indianapolis 30, Houston 23
Minnesota 42, Detroit 30
Jacksonville 27, Cincinnati 17
Tennessee 23, L.A. Chargers 20
Baltimore 30, Seattle 16
New Orleans 36, Chicago 25
Dallas 37, Philadelphia 10
Open: Tampa Bay, Cleveland, Carolina, Pittsburgh

Monday's games

New England at N.Y. Jets

Thursday, Oct. 24

Washington at Minnesota

Sunday, Oct. 27

Arizona at New Orleans
Tampa Bay at Tennessee
N.Y. Giants at Detroit
Cincinnati vs L.A. Rams at London, UK
Denver at Indianapolis
Philadelphia at Buffalo
N.Y. Jets at Jacksonville
Seattle at Atlanta
L.A. Chargers at Chicago
Carolina at San Francisco
Oakland at Houston
Cleveland at New England
Green Bay at Kansas City
Open: Dallas, Baltimore

Monday, Oct. 28

Miami at Pittsburgh

49ers win ugly game, improve to 6-0

LANDOVER, Md. — Robbie Gould made field goals from 28, 22 and 29 yards to provide the only points in an ugly win by the San Francisco 49ers over the Washington Redskins in steady rain and driving wind Sunday to remain undefeated.

It wasn't pretty, but San Francisco is 6-0 for the third time in franchise history.

Coach Kyle Shanahan's bunch didn't look like an unbeaten powerhouse in horrific conditions that made life difficult on the entire offense.

"It's not just throwing and catching, but it's tough to stand up and block people, too," Shanahan said. "Everyone knows how the field always is and just the way it was raining from last night made it a tough game for both sides."

San Francisco's defense continued its dominant run after holding the Los Angeles Rams to seven points last week and the Cleveland Browns to three before that. It's the Niners' first shutout since Week 1 of the 2016 season.

49ers 9, Redskins 0

San Francisco	**0**	**0**	**3**	**6—9**
Washington	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0—0**

Third Quarter

SF—FG Gould 28, 5:28.

Fourth Quarter

SF—FG Gould 22, 9:03.
SF—FG Gould 29, :23.
A—61,459.

	SF	Was
First downs	17	10
Total Net Yards	283	154
Rushes-yards	39-137	26-104
Passing	146	50
Punt Returns	2-30	1-0
Kickoff Returns	0-0	3-63
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-33
Comp-Att-Int	12-21-1	9-12-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-5	3-27
Punts	2-47.0	4-49.5
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	2-20	7-47
Time of Possession	33:24	26:36

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—San Francisco, Coleman 20-62, Breida 8-35, Garoppolo 4-20, Wilson 5-20, Kittle 2-0. **Washington**, Peterson 20-81, Smallwood 5-23, Sims 1-0.

PASSING—San Francisco, Garoppolo 12-21-1-151. **Washington**, Keenum 9-12-0-77.

RECEIVING—San Francisco, Bourne 3-69, Kittle 3-38, Coleman 2-(minus 1), James 1-40, Dwelley 1-2, Toilolo 1-2, Breida 1-1. **Washington**, Sims 3-5, Quinn 2-30, Sprinkle 2-13, Smallwood 1-18, McLaurin 1-11.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—San Francisco, Gould 45. **Washington**, Hopkins 39.

Rodgers throws 5 TDs, Packers gash Raiders

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Aaron Rodgers had his best game by far under new Packers coach Matt LaFleur, throwing for 429 yards and five touchdowns and running for one as Green Bay beat the Oakland Raiders.

Rodgers completed 25 of 31 passes to eight targets and finished with the first perfect passer rating of his career.

"A lot of times that ball leaves his hand, I'm always like in awe. So, yeah, he's pretty good," LaFleur said of the two-time MVP.

Even with top target Davante Adams sidelined for the third straight game with turf toe, Rodgers threw for his most touchdowns in a game since Sept. 28, 2015, against the Chiefs.

Packers 42, Raiders 24

Oakland	**3**	**7**	**7**	**7—24**
Green Bay	**7**	**14**	**14**	**7—42**

First Quarter

Oak—FG Carlson 45, 12:21.
GB—A.Jones 21 pass from Rodgers (Mas.Crosby kick), 9:42.

Second Quarter

Oak—Moreau 10 pass from Carr (Carlson kick), 11:33.
GB—J.Williams 2 pass from Rodgers (Mas.Crosby kick), 3:27.
GB—Kumerow 37 pass from Rodgers (Mas.Crosby kick), :12.

Third Quarter

GB—Rodgers 3 run (Mas.Crosby kick), 12:04.
Oak—Waller 7 pass from Carr (Carlson kick), 6:41.
GB—Graham 3 pass from Rodgers (Mas.Crosby kick), 2:06.

Fourth Quarter

GB—Valdes-Scantling 74 pass from Rodgers (Mas.Crosby kick), 6:28.
Oak—Waller 17 pass from Glennon (Carlson kick), 1:32.
A—78,160.

	Oak	GB
First downs	21	22
Total Net Yards	484	481
Rushes-yards	31-155	23-60
Passing	329	421
Punt Returns	2-47	0-0
Kickoff Returns	2-49	4-60
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	24-31-1	25-31-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	1-8
Punts	2-53.0	3-55.3
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	8-97	3-20
Time of Possession	29:36	30:24

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Oakland, Jacobs 21-124, Washington 6-29, Richard 2-2, Carr 2-0. **Green Bay**, A.Jones 12-50, Rodgers 2-6, J.Williams 3-5, D.Williams 3-2, Boyle 3-(minus 3).

PASSING—Oakland, Carr 22-28-1-293, Glennon 2-3-0-36. **Green Bay**, Rodgers 25-31-0-429.

RECEIVING—Oakland, Waller 7-126, Doss 3-54, Jacobs 3-10, Davis 2-26, Moreau 2-24, Carrier 2-22, Renfrow 2-14, Ateman 1-36, Washington 1-12, Richard 1-5. **Green Bay**, Graham 4-65, Allison 4-33, A.Jones 4-33, J.Williams 4-26, Lazard 3-42, Valdes-Scantling 2-133, Kumerow 2-54, Vitale 2-43.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Brissett's big day leads Indy past Texans

INDIANAPOLIS — Jacoby Brissett threw a career-high four touchdown passes and Indianapolis sealed the victory over Houston with Darius Leonard's late interception.

The Colts (4-2) have won three straight in the series and took over the lead in the AFC South.

The loss snapped Houston's two-game winning streak.

Brissett was masterful most of the day. He was 26-for-39 with 326 yards, and in a game the Colts produced only 62 yards rushing, they needed Brissett to be at his best — and he was.

"It just says he's legit, he's the man," coach Frank Reich said of Brissett. "We believed that from Day One and we've never wavered in our conviction in our faith in Jacoby. He's still got to make plays to win this game and he did that today."

Colts 30, Texans 23

Houston	**0**	**9**	**7**	**7—23**
Indianapolis	**7**	**7**	**14**	**2—30**

First Quarter

Ind—Pascal 11 pass from Brissett (Vinatieri kick), 5:01.

Second Quarter

Hou—FG Fairbairn 47, 8:59.
Hou—FG Fairbairn 31, 6:25.
Ind—Hilton 2 pass from Brissett (Vinatieri kick), 1:49.
Hou—FG Fairbairn 26, :23.

Third Quarter

Ind—Ebron 4 pass from Brissett (Vinatieri kick), 10:29.
Hou—Coutee 4 run (Fairbairn kick), 8:43.
Ind—Pascal 3 pass from Brissett (Vinatieri kick), 1:14.

Fourth Quarter

Hou—Hopkins 4 pass from Watson (Fairbairn kick), 6:38.
Ind—safety, 2:41.
A—59,977.

	Hou	Ind
First downs	21	23
Total Net Yards	391	383
Rushes-yards	24-100	26-62
Passing	291	321
Punt Returns	1-3	0-0
Kickoff Returns	3-63	4-79
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	2-0
Comp-Att-Int	23-34-2	26-40-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-17	1-5
Punts	2-44.5	4-43.5
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	10-54	6-45
Time of Possession	27:08	32:52

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Houston, Hyde 12-35, D.Johnson 7-34, Watson 3-32, Coutee 1-4, Anger 1-(minus 5). **Indianapolis**, Mack 18-44, Wilkins 2-9, Brissett 5-6, Hines 1-3.

PASSING—Houston, Watson 23-34-2-308. **Indianapolis**, Brissett 26-39-0-326, Pascal 0-1-0-0.

RECEIVING—Houston, Hopkins 9-106, Stills 4-105, Coutee 3-25, Fells 2-27, D.Johnson 2-22, Akins 2-17, Fuller 1-6. **Indianapolis**, Pascal 6-106, Hilton 6-74, Ebron 4-70, Doyle 3-21, Mack 3-12, Rogers 2-24, Hines 1-13, Wilkins 1-6.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Cousins throws 4 TDs, Vikings surge past Lions

DETROIT — The Minnesota Vikings were so confident in Kirk Cousins they called for a deep pass instead of a more conservative run, to seal a victory against the Detroit Lions.

He validated the gutsy decision.

Cousins connected with Stefon Diggs on a 66-yard pass from deep in his territory with two-plus minutes left after matching a career high with four touchdown passes, leading the Vikings over the slumping Lions.

"That's a play we knew had a chance," Cousins said.

Cousins was 24-for-34 for a season-high 337 yards, threw four TDs for a second straight week and led the Vikings on four straight TD drives.

Vikings 42, Lions 30

Minnesota	**7**	**14**	**7**	**14—42**
Detroit	**14**	**7**	**3**	**6—30**

First Quarter

Det—M.Jones 16 pass from Stafford (Prater kick), 7:34.
Min—Thielen 25 pass from Cousins (Bailey kick), 5:14.
Det—M.Jones 3 pass from Stafford (Prater kick), :13.

Second Quarter

Min—O.Johnson 1 pass from Cousins (Bailey kick), 12:39.
Min—Cook 8 run (Bailey kick), 3:26.
Det—M.Jones 10 pass from Stafford (Prater kick), :02.

Third Quarter

Min—Ham 5 pass from Cousins (Bailey kick), 9:02.
Det—FG Prater 46, 3:22.

Fourth Quarter

Min—Rudolph 15 pass from Cousins (Bailey kick), 5:40.
Det—M.Jones 2 pass from Stafford (pass failed), 3:05.
Min—Cook 4 run (Bailey kick), 1:55.
A—60,314.

	Min	Det
First downs	32	26
Total Net Yards	503	433
Rushes-yards	37-166	20-81
Passing	337	352
Punt Returns	2-9	1-0
Kickoff Returns	4-105	1-29
Interceptions Ret.	1-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	24-34-0	30-45-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	2-12
Punts	2-49.0	3-50.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-61	8-67
Time of Possession	32:10	27:50

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Minnesota, Cook 25-142, Mattison 7-18, Ham 1-9, Cousins 4-(minus 3). **Detroit**, McKissic 5-29, T.Johnson 10-29, K.Johnson 5-23.

PASSING—Minnesota, Cousins 24-34-0-337. **Detroit**, Stafford 30-45-1-364.

RECEIVING—Minnesota, S.Diggs 7-142, I.Smith 5-60, Rudolph 5-58, O.Johnson 4-40, Thielen 1-25, Cook 1-7, Ham 1-5. **Detroit**, M.Jones 10-93, Amendola 8-105, T.Johnson 4-28, Hockenson 3-32, McKissic 2-31, Hall 1-47, Golladay 1-21, James 1-7.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—Minnesota, Bailey 45.



MIKE ROEMER/AP

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers looks to pass after eluding the Raiders' Maurice Hurst on Sunday.

NFL

Casey recovers fumble, Titans hold off Charger

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Jurrell Casey recovered a fumble by Melvin Gordon at the goal line with 15 seconds left, and Tennessee pulled out a victory over the Los Angeles Chargers after a frantic finish.

Gordon initially was ruled down at the 1. Casey came out of the pile with the ball, and the Titans started celebrating. The play was reviewed and the ruling was that Gordon lost a fumble forced by Titans linebacker Wesley Woodyard that was recovered by Casey for a touchback.

"Once I felt the ball come out, I'm like 'I got to recover it. I got to recover it,'" Casey said. "And shoot. Sure enough the ball sat in my hands. Kind of popped out for a quick second, and I thought I was about to lose it. Kind of panicked for a moment. If I let them recover it, that's a TD."

"You don't get 1 yard, you don't deserve to win the damn game, and that's the way it is," Chargers coach Anthony Lynn said. "We had 1 yard to win this game, and we let it slip out of our hands."

The Chargers thought they had scored the go-ahead touchdown not once but twice in the final 44 seconds only to lose both on review by the replay official.

First, Philip Rivers' pass that Austin Ekeler took 16 yards was ruled a touchdown only to be reversed by the replay official for not breaking the plane as he was tackled by Kenny Vaccaro and Logan Ryan. After a false start, Malcolm Butler then was flagged for defensive pass interference on Mike Williams in the end zone.

Then Gordon went over right tackle with 34 seconds left for what officials ruled a 1-yard TD, and the replay official then reversed the call for the second time in what became a run for no gain. That set up Gordon's final run with 19 seconds left.

"They obviously saw enough to overturn it," Rivers said. "I just didn't."

Titans 23, Chargers 20

L.A. Chargers	3	7	0	10—20
Tennessee	3	7	0	13—23

First Quarter

Ten—FG Parkey 45, 6:02.
LAC—FG McLaughlin 29, :02.

Second Quarter

LAC—Gordon 1 pass from Rivers (McLaughlin kick), 3:38.
Ten—C.Davis 8 pass from Tannehill (Parkey kick), :23.

Fourth Quarter

Ten—Sharpe 5 pass from Tannehill (kick failed), 13:11.
LAC—FG McLaughlin 50, 10:55.
Ten—D.Henry 11 run (Parkey kick), 6:39.
LAC—Ekeler 41 pass from Rivers (McLaughlin kick), 5:09.
A—62,431.

	LAC	Ten
First downs	24	22
Total Net Yards	365	403
Rushes-yards	21-39	29-97
Passing	326	306
Punt Returns	0-0	1-14
Kickoff Returns	1-8	3-69
Interceptions Ret.	1-3	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	24-38-0	24-30-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-3	2-17
Punts	2-46.5	2-42.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	2-0
Penalties-Yards	4-29	7-54
Time of Possession	27:45	32:15

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Los Angeles, Gordon 16-32, Ekeler 5-7. **Tennessee**, D.Henry 22-90, Tannehill 5-7, Lewis 1-2, A.Brown 1-(minus 2).

PASSING—Los Angeles, Rivers 24-38-0-329. **Tennessee**, Tannehill 23-29-1-312, Kern 1-1-0-11.

RECEIVING—Los Angeles, Ekeler 7-118, H.Henry 6-97, Allen 4-61, Williams 4-47, Gordon 2-(minus 3), Green 1-9. **Tennessee**, C.Davis 6-80, A.Brown 6-64, Humphries 4-40, J.Smith 3-64, Sharpe 2-19, Firkser 1-27, D.Henry 1-18, Byard 1-11.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.



ADAM HUNGER/AP

The Cardinals' Chase Edmonds runs for a touchdown on Sunday against the Giants.

Bills D delivers in win over winless Dolphins

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Tre'Davious White forced two second-half turnovers, Micah Hyde returned an onside kick for a touchdown, and the Buffalo Bills rallied from a five-point deficit to beat winless the Miami Dolphins.

The Bills avoided what would have been a major upset against a patchwork opponent in a major rebuilding mode.

Josh Allen led fourth-quarter touchdown drives following each of the Dolphins turnovers, and the Bills improved to 5-1 in matching their best start in 11 years.

White's diving interception on second-and-goal from the 12 led to Buffalo going ahead 17-14 on John Brown's 20-yard touchdown catch.

Two series later, White punched the ball out of the hands of Preston Williams near the Miami 30, and the fumble was recovered by defensive end Jerry Hughes. Three plays later, Allen hit a wide-open Cole Beasley for a 3-yard touchdown.

Bills 31, Dolphins 21

Miami	0	14	0	7—21
Buffalo	6	3	0	22—31

First Quarter

Buf—FG Hauschka 39, 10:54.
Buf—FG Hauschka 43, 3:48.

Second Quarter

Mia—Ballage 3 run (Sanders kick), 14:49.
Buf—FG Hauschka 45, 10:06.
Mia—D.Parker 12 pass from Fitzpatrick (Sanders kick), 5:51.

Fourth Quarter

Buf—Brown 20 pass from Allen (Allen run), 13:50.
Buf—Beasley 3 pass from Allen (Hauschka kick), 6:31.
Mia—Fitzpatrick 11 run (Sanders kick), 1:45.
Buf—Hyde 45 kickoff return (Hauschka kick), 1:38.
A—68,340.

	Mia	Buf
First downs	24	17
Total Net Yards	381	305
Rushes-yards	30-109	23-117
Passing	272	188
Punt Returns	1-19	3-22
Kickoff Returns	1-12	1-45
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	23-35-1	16-26-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-10	2-14
Punts	4-49.0	3-42.3
Fumbles-Lost	3-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-55	9-83
Time of Possession	33:31	26:29

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Miami, Walton 14-66, Drake 6-21, Fitzpatrick 6-13, Ballage 3-7, Haack 1-2. **Buffalo**, Gore 11-55, Allen 4-32, Singletary 7-26, DiMarco 1-4.

PASSING—Miami, Fitzpatrick 23-35-1-282. **Buffalo**, Allen 16-26-0-202.

RECEIVING—Miami, P.Williams 6-82, D.Parker 5-55, Gesicki 4-41, Hurns 3-53, Drake 3-37, Wilson 1-22, Walton 1-(minus 8). **Buffalo**, Brown 5-83, Beasley 3-16, Knox 2-22, McKenzie 2-11, DiMarco 1-27, D.Williams 1-23, Gore 1-11, Smith 1-9.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Edmonds runs for three TDs, Cards top Giants

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The game was billed as the return of Saquon Barkley to the New York Giants' lineup and the matchup of first-round rookie quarterbacks Kyler Murray and Daniel Jones. It had an unexpected star: Arizona Cardinals backup running back Chase Edmonds.

Edmonds rushed for career highs of 126 yards and three touchdowns and the Cardinals' defense sacked Jones eight times and forced three turnovers.

"Extremely stoked today," said Edmonds, a Pennsylvania native who rewrote the rushing records at Fordham University in New York City. "I just wanted to go out here and show people and make a name for myself."

Edmonds did in carrying a career-high 27 times with starter David Johnson banged up. It helped the Cardinals win their third straight for the first time since 2015 and sent the Giants to their third straight loss.

Cardinals 27, Giants 21

Arizona	14	3	7	3—27
New York	0	14	0	7—21

First Quarter

Ari—Edmonds 20 run (Gonzalez kick), 8:14.
Ari—Edmonds 20 run (Gonzalez kick), 4:15.

Second Quarter

Ari—FG Gonzalez 47, 13:30.
NYG—Ellison 28 pass from D.Jones (Rosas kick), 11:28.
NYG—Penny 0 blocked punt return (Rosas kick), 9:52.

Third Quarter

Ari—Edmonds 22 run (Gonzalez kick), 6:05.

Fourth Quarter

NYG—Barkley 7 run (Rosas kick), 8:13.
Ari—FG Gonzalez 35, 2:09.
A—73,577.

	Ari	NYG
First downs	18	21
Total Net Yards	245	263
Rushes-yards	38-156	22-107
Passing	89	156
Punt Returns	1-3	1-17
Kickoff Returns	1-0	4-87
Interceptions Ret.	1-14	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	14-21-0	22-35-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-15	8-67
Punts	5-33.8	3-37.3
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	3-2
Penalties-Yards	10-85	6-75
Time of Possession	29:50	30:01

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Arizona, Edmonds 27-126, K.Murray 10-28, D.Johnson 1-2. **New York**, Barkley 18-72, D.Jones 4-35.

PASSING—Arizona, K.Murray 14-21-0-104. **New York**, D.Jones 22-35-1-223.

RECEIVING—Arizona, Cooper 4-29, Edmonds 2-24, Isabella 2-8, Clay 1-12, Fitzgerald 1-12, K.Johnson 1-6, M.Williams 1-5, Sherfield 1-4, Byrd 1-4. **New York**, Tate 6-80, Fowler 4-35, Latimer 4-33, Barkley 3-8, Ellison 2-33, Slayton 2-28, Engram 1-6.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—New York, Rosas 37.

Defense leads Jaguars over winless Bengals

CINCINNATI — Jalen Ramsey wasn't needed. The Jaguars' defense had more than enough against one of the NFL's sad-sack teams.

Three interceptions. A defensive touchdown. A dominant performance by the line. All of it added up to a soothing win for Jacksonville, given the way the week had played out.

Gardner Minshew led a fourth-quarter touchdown drive for the lead, and Yannick Ngakoue returned an interception 23 yards to clinch a win over Cincinnati.

The Jaguars managed only field goals by still-perfect Josh Lambo through three quarters before their rookie quarterback and their defense made all the game-turning plays at the end.

The win capped a week in which the Jaguars traded the disgruntled Ramsey to the Rams for three draft picks, a potentially disruptive move. Their defense responded with one of its best performances, picking off Andy Dalton three times in the fourth quarter to put it away.

Jaguars 27, Bengals 17

Jacksonville	0	6	3	18—27
Cincinnati	0	7	3	7—17

Second Quarter

Jac—FG Lambo 21, 6:30.
Cin—Mixon 2 pass from Dalton (Bullock kick), 1:25.
Jac—FG Lambo 29, :04.

Third Quarter

Jac—FG Lambo 37, 6:52.
Cin—FG Bullock 38, :31.

Fourth Quarter

Jac—Cole 2 pass from Minshew (Conley pass from Minshew), 12:41.
Jac—Ngakoue 23 interception return (Lambo kick), 4:18.
Jac—FG Lambo 26, 1:56.
Cin—Dalton 1 run (Bullock kick), :23.
A—42,784.

	Jac	Cin
First downs	22	21
Total Net Yards	460	291
Rushes-yards	44-216	20-33
Passing	244	258
Punt Returns	3-15	1-5
Kickoff Returns	0-0	3-98
Interceptions Ret.	3-72	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	15-32-0	22-43-3
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-11	2-18
Punts	6-42.2	6-48.3
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	11-130	6-50
Time of Possession	38:17	21:43

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Jacksonville, Fournette 29-131, Minshew 9-48, Chark 1-20, Westbrook 2-14, Armstead 3-3. **Cincinnati**, Dalton 4-33, Mixon 10-2, Bernard 4-0, Erickson 2-(minus 2).

PASSING—Jacksonville, Minshew 15-32-0-255. **Cincinnati**, Dalton 22-43-3-276.

RECEIVING—Jacksonville, Westbrook 6-103, Conley 3-83, Chark 3-53, Fournette 2-14, Cole 1-2. **Cincinnati**, Erickson 8-137, Boyd 5-55, Tate 3-65, Eifert 2-10, Bernard 2-4, Sample 1-3, Mixon 1-2.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Rams snap skid by thrashing Falcons

ATLANTA — Jared Goff threw for two touchdowns and ran for another, and the Los Angeles Rams returned to the site of last season's Super Bowl loss to beat the reeling Atlanta Falcons 37-10 on Sunday.

The Rams (4-3) snapped a three-game losing streak in the debut of cornerback Jalen Ramsey.

"We're back on track," said linebacker Dante Fowler, who had three sacks and a forced fumble.

Coach Sean McVay was impressed by Ramsey's ability to prepare for the game following Tuesday's trade from Jacksonville.

"I can't say enough about his ability to digest the game plan," McVay said.

"I think it's just a real credit to our defensive coaches and then Jalen's ability ... to come in on short notice with such practice time and do what he did. It was a good boost to our team, to be sure."

The Falcons (1-6) suffered their fifth straight loss and had quarterback Matt Ryan leave the game with an ankle injury. Ryan's right leg bent awkwardly as he was sacked by Aaron Donald and fumbled early in the fourth quarter.

Ryan limped off the field and was escorted to the medical tent on the sideline. He walked to the locker room, still favoring the ankle, with 7:36 remaining in the game.

Ryan wore a walking boot in the locker room and was not made available for his usual postgame news conference.

Matt Schaub replaced Ryan and threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Austin Hooper with 2:36 remaining.

Atlanta's frustrations showed in a third-quarter fight between running back Devonta Freeman and Donald that led to Freeman's ejection.

Rams 37, Falcons 10

L.A. Rams	3	10	14	10—37
Atlanta	0	0	0	7—10

First Quarter

Atl—FG Bryant 52, 11:23.
La—FG Zuerlein 55, 1:42.

Second Quarter

La—Gurley 13 pass from Goff (Zuerlein kick), 11:16.
La—FG Zuerlein 25, 1:56.

Third Quarter

La—Everett 8 pass from Goff (Zuerlein kick), 10:35.
La—Goff 1 run (Zuerlein kick), 6:34.

Fourth Quarter

La—FG Zuerlein 20, 5:42.
Atl—Hooper 10 pass from Schaub (Bryant kick), 2:36.
La—Williams 0 fumble return (Zuerlein kick), :11.
A—71,856.

	La	Atl
First downs	23	14
Total Net Yards	381	224
Rushes-yards	36-90	15-38
Passing	291	186
Punt Returns	4-36	1-(minu
Kickoff Returns	0-0	2-65
Interceptions Ret.	1-6	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	23-36-0	22-33-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	5-38
Punts	3-31.7	5-41.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	4-2
Penalties-Yards	5-24	5-48
Time of Possession	37:09	22:51

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Los Angeles, Gurley 18-41, Henderson 11-31, Kelly 3-9, Woods 1-6, Goff 3-3. **Atlanta**, Freeman 7-19, B.Hill 5-11, I.Smith 1-7, Ryan 1-2, Schaub 1-(minus 1).

PASSING—Los Angeles, Goff 22-37-0-268, Hekker 1-1-0-23. **Atlanta**, Ryan 16-27-1-159, Schaub 6-6-0-65.

RECEIVING—Los Angeles, Kupp 6-50, Woods 5-80, Cooks 4-59, Everett 4-50, Scott 1-23, Gurley 1-13, Henderson 1-8, Higbee 1-8. **Atlanta**, J.Jones 6-93, Hooper 4-46, Ridley 4-30, Hardy 2-19, B.Hill 2-14, Freeman 2-6, Gage 1-13, Sanu 1-3.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—Los Angeles, Zuerlein 40. **Atlanta**, Bryant 50.

NFL



RON JENKINS/AP

Cowboys wide receiver Randall Cobb is stopped shy of the end zone by Philadelphia Eagles cornerback Orlando Scandrick in the first half of Sunday's game in Arlington, Texas. Dallas won 37-10.

Cowboys top Eagles

Dallas takes first in NFC East with win

BY SCHUYLER DIXON
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Ezekiel Elliott powered into the Philadelphia secondary and simply ran over safety Malcolm Jenkins.

The apparent 14-yard touchdown run by the star Dallas running back was overturned on review because his knee was down at the 1 — but the message had been sent early in a game with the division lead on the line.

The Cowboys (4-3) are back in control of the NFC East after ending a three-game losing streak that clouded the high expectations for the defending division champions following a 3-0 start.

Elliott got his touchdown the play after overpowering Jenkins on his way to 111 yards, Dak Prescott threw an easy scoring pass on a great fake to his backfield mate before a late TD run and the Cowboys rolled to a 37-10 victory over the Eagles on Sunday night.

"That's how I play every week," Elliott said. "I like to think of the defense as a shield. In the first quarter, you hit them a couple times, you dent the shield a little bit. You keep on hitting it."

Prescott's 8-yard scoring run for the final points broke Roger Staubach's club record of 20 rushing TDs by a quarterback and sent the Cowboys into their open week feeling good after a week of talk that coach Jason Garrett's job might be on the line.

Next time out, they'll be going for a season sweep of the New York Giants and possibly a firmer hold on first in the NFC East.

"No doubt in my mind about how we were going to come out and perform tonight," Prescott said. "We didn't panic. We didn't have to say everything hit the fan, let's start over. We doubled down on who we are and just got better."

Carson Wentz threw an interception and had two of Philadelphia's three lost fumbles. The Eagles (3-4) dropped their second straight game after a two-game winning streak that looked like it might get their season going.

"A little embarrassed," Wentz said. "We didn't show up."

Cowboys 37, Eagles 10

Philadelphia	**7**	**0**	**3**	**0—10**
Dallas	**14**	**13**	**0**	**10—37**

First Quarter

Dal—Austin 20 run (Maher kick), 10:08.
Dal—E.Elliott 1 run (Maher kick), 8:56.
Phi—Goedert 28 pass from Wentz (J.Elliott kick), 4:38.

Second Quarter

Dal—Jarwin 1 pass from Prescott (Maher kick), 6:40.
Dal—FG Maher 26, 1:31.
Dal—FG Maher 63, :00.

Third Quarter

Phi—FG J.Elliott 38, 4:59.

Fourth Quarter

Dal—FG Maher 29, 12:36.
Dal—Prescott 8 run (Maher kick), 9:33.
A—91,213.

	Phi	Dal
First downs	16	23
Total Net Yards	283	402
Rushes-yards	28-115	36-189
Passing	168	213
Punt Returns	1-8	2-12
Kickoff Returns	2-37	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	1-0	1-9
Comp-Att-Int	16-26-1	21-27-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-23	3-26
Punts	3-50.7	3-42.3
Fumbles-Lost	3-3	1-0
Penalties-Yards	5-40	6-65
Time of Possession	27:38	32:22

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Philadelphia, Howard 11-50, Scott 7-32, Sanders 6-21, Wentz 4-12. **Dallas,** E.Elliott 22-111, Prescott 5-30, Pollard 8-28, Austin 1-20.

PASSING—Philadelphia, Wentz 16-26-1-191. **Dallas,** Prescott 21-27-1-239.

RECEIVING—Philadelphia, Goedert 4-69, Sanders 3-11, Jeffery 2-38, Ertz 2-38, Agholor 2-24, Howard 2-6, Scott 1-5. **Dallas,** E.Elliott 6-36, Cooper 5-106, Witten 4-33, Gallup 3-34, Cobb 2-29, Jarwin 1-1.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Banged-up Saints beat Bears

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The New Orleans Saints insisted they were ready for the challenge once Drew Brees went down. All they've done since is back up their words with wins.

Teddy Bridgewater threw for 281 yards and two touchdowns, and the Saints improved to 5-0 without their injured star quarterback by beating the Chicago Bears 36-25 on Sunday.

The Saints (6-1) again showed why they still see themselves as Super Bowl contenders even though their star quarterback is out indefinitely because of a torn ligament in his right thumb.

Bridgewater completed 23 of 38 passes, Michael Thomas had nine receptions for 131 yards, and Latavius Murray ran for 119 yards and two touchdowns.

"I think Teddy's just playing the way he knows how to play," Murray said. "I don't think he's trying to replace Drew. He's just come in and been himself. That's all you can ask because Teddy's had success before. This is nothing new to him. He's been a successful quarterback at this level. He's done a heck of a job, obviously, and he's been undefeated."

Besides Brees, New Orleans had to get by without top running back Alvin Kamara (ankle, knee) and top receiving tight end Jared Cook (ankle). Both players were ruled out Friday, but that didn't stop the NFC South leaders from taking down the Monsters of the Midway.

"You look at us overall — offensively, defensively, the kicking game — we're playing elite football right now," Bridgewater said. "Of course, it's not as pretty as we'd like it to be. But it's working for us."

Saints 36, Bears 25

New Orleans	**9**	**3**	**14**	**10—36**
Chicago	**7**	**3**	**0**	**15—25**

First Quarter

NO—safety, 13:29.
NO—J.Hill 7 pass from Bridgewater (Lutz kick), 3:14.
Chi—Patterson 102 kickoff return (Pineiro kick), 2:59.

Second Quarter

Chi—FG Pineiro 46, 11:33.
NO—FG Lutz 39, 6:31.

Third Quarter

NO—Murray 3 run (Lutz kick), 12:00.
NO—T.Hill 4 pass from Bridgewater (Lutz kick), 2:55.

Fourth Quarter

NO—FG Lutz 30, 12:45.
NO—Murray 4 run (Lutz kick), 4:33.
Chi—A.Robinson 7 pass from Trubisky (Shaheen pass from Trubisky), 2:31.
Chi—Wims 6 pass from Trubisky (Pineiro kick), :48.
A—62,306.

	NO	Chi
First downs	24	16
Total Net Yards	424	252
Rushes-yards	35-151	7-17
Passing	273	235
Punt Returns	5-46	2-6
Kickoff Returns	3-54	4-163
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	23-38-0	34-54-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-8	2-16
Punts	4-42.3	7-37.6
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-2
Penalties-Yards	4-35	3-10
Time of Possession	37:26	22:34

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—New Orleans, Murray 27-119, T.Hill 2-21, Bridgewater 4-7, Line 1-3, Zenner 1-1. **Chicago,** Cohen 3-10, Montgomery 2-6, Patterson 1-2, Miller 1-(minus 1).

PASSING—New Orleans, Bridgewater 23-38-0-281. **Chicago,** Trubisky 34-54-0-251.

RECEIVING—New Orleans, Thomas 9-131, Murray 5-31, J.Hill 3-43, Ginn 2-48, Line 1-12, Washington 1-6, Zenner 1-6, T.Hill 1-4. **Chicago,** A.Robinson 10-87, Cohen 9-19, Miller 5-64, Shaheen 2-24, Patterson 2-21, Montgomery 2-13, Burton 2-11, Wims 1-6, Gabriel 1-6.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—New Orleans, Lutz 42, Lutz 52.

Struggling Chicago: The Bears (3-3) lost their second straight, with Mitchell Trubisky struggling after missing a game because of a shoulder injury.

They were hoping their prized quarterback would build on a solid showing in Week 3 against Washington, when he threw for three touchdowns. Instead, he was erratic, made poor decisions and heard it from the crowd.

Trubisky finished 34-for-54 with 251 yards and two late touchdowns in his first appearance since he was hurt early against Minnesota on Sept. 29. He said his shoulder was fine, but the offense sure is not.

The run game was once again an afterthought, with Chicago setting a franchise low with seven carries. And the 17 yards rushing were by far the fewest this season.

"We just have no rhythm," Trubisky said. "It's not about pointing fingers. We're struggling as an offense."

About all the fans had to cheer for was a 102-yard kickoff return by Cordarrelle Patterson in the first quarter that matched the second-longest in franchise history.

But after losing at Oakland in London two weeks ago, it was another rough outing for the Bears. They gave up a season-high 424 yards while being held to 252 and managed just four first downs through the first three quarters. It added up to their fifth straight loss to the Saints, and a 1-2 record at Soldier Field this season.

By the numbers

5-0

The Saints' record without injured star quarterback Drew Brees after beating the Bears 36-25 Sunday.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Jackson, Ravens roll past Seahawks

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Lamar Jackson was mad. He was mad about settling for field goals three times in the first half. Mad about a delay-of-game penalty and a 13-yard run on third down when he needed 15 yards. Mad to see Justin Tucker trotting on the field again for a field goal.

John Harbaugh saw the anger, so he called timeout and gave Jackson a chance. A critical fourth down would be in the hands of Baltimore's young QB, not on the foot of its kicker.

"I was tired of not scoring," Jackson said.

Running an old-school power play, Jackson rolled in an on 8-yard TD on that fourth-down call. It gave the Ravens the lead for good on their way to a 30-16 win over the Seahawks on Sunday.

Whether it was scrambling away from trouble or designed runs to use his speed, there was no stopping Jackson. He was the best player on the field, outshining Seattle QB Russell Wilson on a day the Seahawks star finally made his first critical mistake of the season.

Jackson was especially good in the second half, when he led Baltimore on a pair of crucial scoring drives. He finished with 116 yards rushing and his TD run, 143 yards passing and one of the more impressive victories in his young career.

"I always wanted to play against Michael Vick. I guess I'm getting the new era with Lamar Jackson right there," Seattle defensive end Jadeveon Clowney said.



JOHN FROSCHAUER/AP

Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson spikes the ball after a touchdown against the Seahawks on Sunday in Seattle.

Ravens 30, Seahawks 16

Baltimore	**3**	**10**	**7**	**10—30**
Seattle	**0**	**13**	**0**	**3—16**

First Quarter

Bal—FG Tucker 25, 10:19.

Second Quarter

Sea—Lockett 8 pass from Wilson (Myers kick), 14:46.
Bal—FG Tucker 28, 11:06.
Sea—FG Myers 34, 7:35.
Bal—Peters 67 interception return (Tucker kick), 5:00.
Sea—FG Myers 31, :02.

Third Quarter

Bal—L.Jackson 8 run (Tucker kick), 1:20.

Fourth Quarter

Bal—FG Tucker 22, 3:47.
Bal—Humphrey 18 fumble return (Tucker kick), 3:37.
Sea—FG Myers 35, 1:49.
A—69,012.

	Bal	Sea
First downs	14	20
Total Net Yards	340	347
Rushes-yards	35-199	26-106
Passing	141	241
Punt Returns	2-8	2-12
Kickoff Returns	3-21	3-58
Interceptions Ret.	1-67	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	9-13-0	20-41-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-2	1-0
Punts	3-44.0	3-51.3
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	8-75	2-18
Time of Possession	29:54	30:06

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Baltimore, L.Jackson 14-116, Ingram 12-46, Edwards 8-35, Snead 1-2. **Seattle,** Carson 21-65, Wilson 3-27, Prosise 1-17, Lockett 1-(minus 3).

PASSING—Baltimore, L.Jackson 9-20-0-143. **Seattle,** Wilson 20-41-1-241.

RECEIVING—Baltimore, Boykin 2-55, Andrews 2-39, Boyle 1-20, H.Hurst 1-10, Roberts 1-9, Ingram 1-7, C.Moore 1-3. **Seattle,** Lockett 5-61, Metcalf 4-53, J.Brown 3-60, Hollister 3-20, Carson 3-9, Turner 1-24, D.Moore 1-14.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—Seattle, Myers 53.

WORLD SERIES

Old-timers' day

'Los Viejos' help Nats reach Fall Classic

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

NL MVP candidate Anthony Rendon surveyed his teammates scattered around the Nationals Park diamond, whoopin' it up after clinching a World Series berth.

There were starting pitchers Max Scherzer and Anibal Sanchez, each 35 — and each responsible for taking a no-hit bid into at least the seventh inning as Washington won Games 1 and 2 of the NL Championship Series. So was Howie Kendrick, 36, the second baseman who earned NLCS MVP honors with four doubles and four RBIs in the sweep. And there was Ryan Zimmerman, 35, the first baseman slugging .484 this postseason.

"A lot of old guys on the team," Rendon observed. "They call themselves 'Viejos.'"

Indeed, they do, and "Los Viejos" — Spanish for "The Old Guys" — are a big part of why the Nats are getting ready to face the Astros in the Fall Classic, which opens Tuesday in Houston.

There's also catcher Kurt Suzuki, 36, and reliever Fernando Rodney, 42, the oldest active player in the majors.

"People think we are old men and we can't do things," said Rodney, who credited Suzuki with originating the nickname. "So we say, 'Vamos, Viejos! You can do it!'"

They helped make Washington the oldest club in baseball in 2019, with an average age of a tad under 31.

The Astros aren't exactly spring chickens: With an average age of just above 30, they ranked third oldest out of Major League Baseball's 30 clubs. Just like the Nationals, their roster includes a half-dozen players who are at least 35, including rotation stalwarts Justin Verlander and Zack Greinke.

"Older players sometimes get devalued a little bit, just because of the age," Suzuki said. "You can call us old, but that's fine. We don't care. We feel like we can still contribute and we can still play at a high level. And I think that's the only thing that matters."

Scherzer, for example, is a three-time Cy Young Award winner who followed up yet another stellar regular season by compiling a 1.80 ERA in four appearances in the playoffs; Washington went 4-0 in those games.

Sanchez has made two starts this postseason with a 0.71 ERA.

Like Scherzer and Sanchez, Rodney is one of a half-dozen members of the Nationals to already have appeared in a World Series (only one, little-used reliever Hunter Strickland, has won a title).

Rodney has been a key part of the late-season rebirth of the team's bullpen: He has allowed two hits and zero runs in 2 2/3 innings in the playoffs.

"I look at them, and they're not old to me," 55-year-old manager Dave Martinez said. "They're playing like I've seen them play when they were 27, 28."

Sure, the Nationals do have a couple of kids playing key roles in starting outfielders Juan Soto, 20, and Victor Robles, 22. But there's not much else at that end of the spectrum, which is why when second baseman Brian Dozier, 32, was asked what advice he's giving the younger guys, he chuckled and responded: "Younger guys? You mean the two that's in here?"

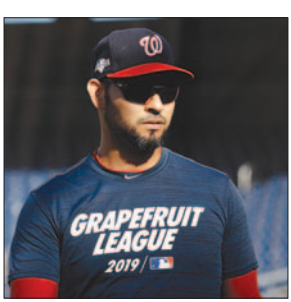
Dozier thinks it's important to have a lot of veterans at this time of year — players who have been around are used to dealing with distractions such as an increased media presence and have a better grasp of how to, as he put it, "slow the game down a lot more" when the pressure increases.

"The chemistry and the experience that veteran guys bring, you can't put that into an algorithm. You can't put a money value on it. So people don't like it. But there's definitely a place for those guys," Zimmerman said. "You can't have a team filled with old guys, either. Nobody's saying that. I'm just saying that there are spots on every team for veteran guys who have been there and done that and have experience and can teach the young, talented guys that are basically going to carry the game on to the next generation how to respect the game, how to play the game the right way."

Nationals GM Mike Rizzo likes the way the older players mentor the younger ones.

He also likes the production "Los Viejos" provide.

"We knew we were the oldest team in the league, and everybody said that's a negative. We just tried to flip that and made it a positive, because we know how good … we can still play. All of us, even the old guys," Scherzer said. "For me, I don't even feel old. I feel young. I feel great and know that I can go out there and do everything I could do back when I was 25 years old."



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Nationals pitcher Anibal Sanchez, 35, has an ERA of 0.71 in two postseason starts.



AP photos

Above: Washington Nationals reliever Fernando Rodney, 42, is the oldest active player in the majors.

Left: Howie Kendrick, 36, hit a series-winning grand slam in the NLDS and was named NLCS MVP.

WORLD SERIES

Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4	Game 5	Game 6	Game 7
Tuesday at Houston AFN-Sports 2 a.m Wednesday CET; 9 a.m. JKT	Wednesday at Houston AFN-Sports 2 a.m Thursday CET; 9 a.m. JKT	Friday at Washington AFN-Sports 2 a.m Saturday CET; 9 a.m. JKT	Saturday at Washington AFN-Sports 2 a.m Sunday CET; 9 a.m. JKT	if necessary Sunday at Washington AFN-Sports 2 a.m Monday CET; 9 a.m. JKT	if necessary Tuesday, Oct. 29 at Houston AFN-Sports 2 a.m Wednesday CET; 9 a.m. JKT	if necessary Wednesday, Oct. 30 at Houston AFN-Sports 2 a.m Thursday CET; 9 a.m. JKT

PROJECTED LINEUPS

SS Trea Turner .298, 19 HRs, 57 RBIs	**CF George Springer** .292, 39, 96
RF Adam Eaton .279, 15, 49	**2B Jose Altuve** .298, 31, 74
3B Anthony Rendon .319, 34, 126	**LF Michael Brantley** .311, 22, 90, 40 2Bs
LF Juan Soto .282, 34, 110	**3B Alex Bregman** .296, 41, 112
DH Howie Kendrick .344, 17, 62	**DH Yordan Álvarez** .313, 27, 78 in 87 games
1B Ryan Zimmerman .257, 6, 27 in 52 games	**1B Yuli Gurriel** .298, 31, 104
2B Asdrubal Cabrera .260, 18, 91	**SS Carlos Correa** .279, 21, 59 in 75 games
C Kurt Suzuki .264, 17, 63	**RF Josh Reddick** .275, 14, 56
CF Victor Robles .255, 17, 65	**C Robinson Chirinos** .238, 17, 58

STARTING PITCHERS

RH Max Scherzer 11-7, 2.92, 243 Ks, 172 1/3 IP	**RH Gerrit Cole** 20-5, AL-best 2.50, MLB-leading 326 Ks
RH Stephen Strasburg 18-6, 3.32, 251 Ks, NL-high 209 IP in 33 starts	**RH Justin Verlander** 21-6, 2.58, career-high 300 Ks, led majors with 223 IP
LH Patrick Corbin 14-7, 3.25, 238 Ks, 202 IP	**RH Zack Greinke** 18-5, 2.93 with Arizona and Houston
RH Aníbal Sánchez 11-8, 3.85 ERA	

RELIEVERS

LH Sean Doolittle 6-5, 4.05 ERA, 29/35 saves	**RH Roberto Osuna** 4-3, 2.63, 38/44 saves
RH Daniel Hudson 6-3, 3.00, 2 saves with Toronto; 3-0, 1.44, 6 saves with Washington	**RH Ryan Pressly** 2-3, 2.32
RH Fernando Rodney 0-2, 9.42 with Oakland; 0-3, 4.05, 2 saves with Washington	**RH Will Harris** 4-1, 1.50
RH Hunter Strickland 0-1, 8.10, 2 saves with Seattle; 2-0, 5.14 with Washington	**RH Chris Devenski** 2-3, 4.83
RH Tanner Rainey 2-3, 3.91	**RH Josh James** 5-1, 4.70
RH Wander Suero 6-9, 4.54, 1 save	**RH Hector Rondon** 3-2, 3.71
	RH Brad Peacock 7-6, 4.12
	RH Joe Smith 1-0, 1.80

*Final team rosters were not available at press time.

SOURCES: The Associated Press, mlb.com

Hill: 8 months after meeting in exhibition opener, Astros and Nationals playing for the championship

FROM FRONT PAGE

"I know a few guys in their rotation, and I'm personally excited that they're in this position, and I'm just very excited to get in there," Cole said late Saturday night.

"They've worked their tails off. I know a lot of the guys on the team, and I know how they prepare," he said. "I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Like when he faces Washington's big bopper.

"Anthony Rendon is one of the greatest hitters in the game right now," Cole said. "There's no real way to get him out. You just kind of hope that he misses some balls or he scorches them right at your guys, I guess.

"I've been watching him since I was in college. It's very unique what he's been able to do and he's just a pleasure to watch play."

The clubs saw each other back in February when they played in the exhibition opener, and Scherzer gave up a homer to the first batter of the game.

Now, eight months later, they meet for real. The 107-win Astros trying to capture their second crown in three years, the wild-card Nationals making their Series debut.

"The World Series comes through Houston. I like the sound of that. I think it should be that way for many years to come," Bregman said.

No slight to Bregman and other big hitters here: Altuve, the ALCS MVP, postseason star George Springer and top shortstops Trea Turner and Carlos Correa. And not to overlook the young stars on this stage for the first time, such as Juan Soto and Yordan Alvarez.

Yet in an era when teams search for new pitching strategies — witness the Astros' parade of relievers in Game 6 of the ALCS — the two clubs left figure to rely heavily on their starters.

Fine by Houston manager AJ Hinch.

"Philosophically, whether it's about the new-age opener or pulling guys third time through, most of the people that support that haven't had Verlander or Cole on their team," he said.

The Nationals stack up just fine, too. Consider their staff includes Anibal Sanchez, who took a playoff no-hit bid into the eighth inning.

The Astros, who began as the National League expansion Colt .45s in 1962, led the majors in setting a franchise record for wins. Their playoff path was more of a struggle, beating wild-card Tampa Bay in the deciding Game 5 of the AL Division Series and then stopping the 103-win Yankees on Altuve's pennant-winning homer off Aroldis Chapman in the ninth inning.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Nationals third baseman Anthony Rendon, above, poses a challenge for even the best pitchers. "There's no real way to get him out. You just kind of hope that he misses some balls or he scorches them right at your guys, I guess," Astros ace Gerrit Cole said.

The Nationals, who started out as the Montreal Expos in 1969, took the reverse route.

A season after letting slugger Bryce Harper leave as a free agent, the Nats were just 19-31 in May. The slow start prompted speculation that manager Dave Martinez would be fired and management would sell off stars at the trade deadline.

Instead, the Nationals bounced back. They earned a playoff spot, eliminated the favored Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL Division Series and swept the surging St. Louis Cardinals behind NLCS MVP Howie Kendrick.

For Washington, the city gets its first World Series since the Senators played in 1933. For the Nationals, the old October question: rest or rust?

The Nationals will have a full week between games while the Astros get only two days off. A fact on this: Boston had two more days of rest last year and beat the Dodgers. But before that, the past nine champions were the clubs that had less rest.

Martinez isn't worried.

"These guys have played unbelievably. I think they needed a break. Some guys really needed a break," he said. "Heal their bodies a little bit."



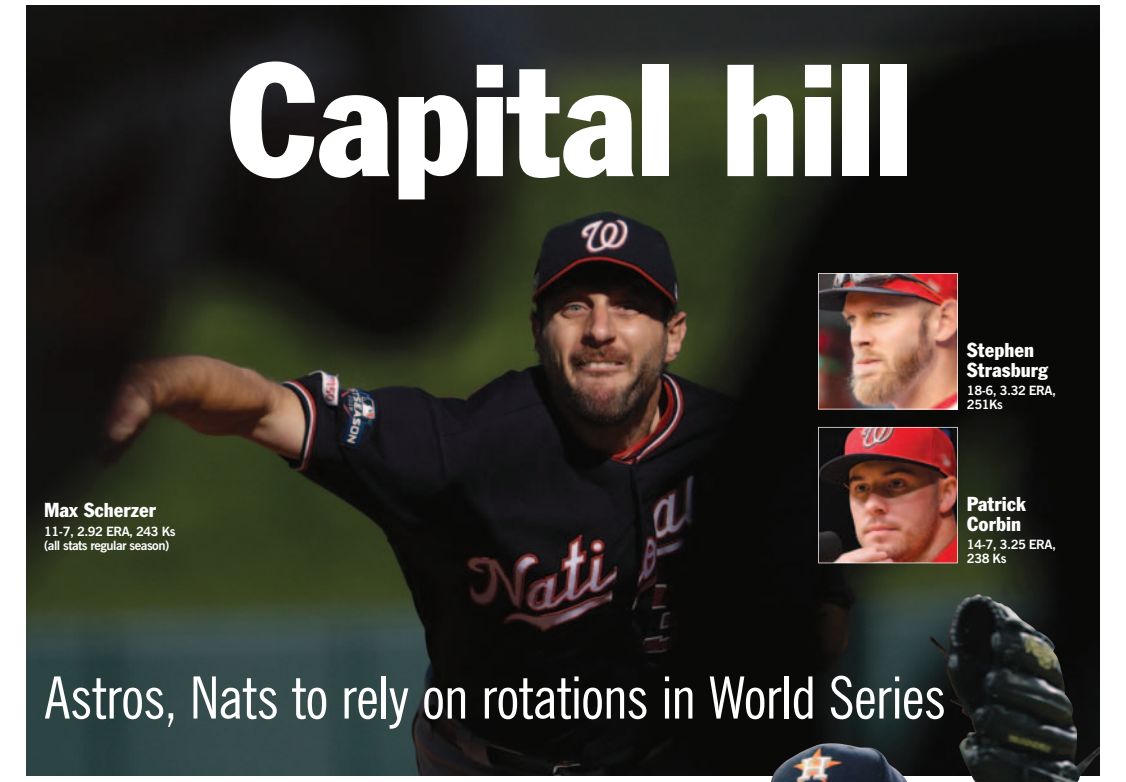
Astros third baseman Alex Bregman, like Rendon an MVP candidate, will be a tough out for Nats pitchers.

CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

SPORTS

Drew who?
Saints with 5th straight since Brees' thumb injury » NFL, Page 29

Capital hill



Max Scherzer
11-7, 2.92 ERA, 243 Ks
(all stats regular season)

Stephen Strasburg
18-6, 3.32 ERA, 251Ks

Patrick Corbin
14-7, 3.25 ERA, 238 Ks

Astros, Nats to rely on rotations in World Series

By Ben Walker
Associated Press

Now this is a serious World Series throw-down.

Gerrit Cole, Justin Verlander and Zack Greinke vs. Max Scherzer, Stephen Strasburg and Patrick Corbin — all of them All-Star starters, still pitching at their peak.

It's a mound meeting that every fan can enjoy, the Houston Astros against the Washington Nationals.

Capital hill, indeed.

"We've got the best pitcher in the world going. And then after that, we've got the best pitcher in the world going, too. And then after that, we've got the best pitcher in the world going, too," Astros third baseman Alex Bregman said. "It's going to be a lot of fun."

Bregman and fellow MVP candidate Anthony Rendon certainly did their parts to make this the Year of the Home Run. And Jose Altuve lit up Minute Maid Park with his walk-off homer to beat the Yankees in the AL Championship Series.

But the focus of this Fall Classic is right on the rotations. Houston opened as a 2-1 favorite at the Las Vegas sportsbooks.

Cole is set to throw the first pitch on Tuesday night in Houston. He led the majors with 326 strikeouts, was second to Verlander in the big leagues with 20 wins and topped the AL with a 2.50 ERA.

He also is 19-0 in his last 25 starts. That includes 3-0 in the playoffs so far, allowing one earned run in 22⅔ innings while fanning 32.

Cole was acquired by the Astros a few months after they won the 2017 World Series. He has fit in fine with his Houston teammates and also has gotten acquainted with some of the Washington aces — the teams share the Ballpark of the Palm Beaches spring training complex in Florida.

SEE HILL ON PAGE 31

■ 'Los Viejos' – The Old Guys – help Nats advance, Page 30
■ Schedule, TV information, projected lineups, Page 31



Justin Verlander
21-6, 2.58 ERA,
career-high 300Ks



Zack Greinke
8-1, 3.02 ERA, 52Ks
with Houston



Gerrit Cole
20-5, 2.50 ERA,
326 Ks

AP photos

Clippers picked to win talent-laden West » NBA, Page 25

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